FBIS

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LD111323 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Damaged — A spokesman for the Iranian Oil Ministry declared that the *Texaco Caribbean* incident was a "U.S. plot for suggesting insecure conditions" in the Gulf, IRNA reported 11 August. The mine which damaged the Panamanian-registered supertanker off the UAE port of Al-Fujayrah may have been "planted directly by the U.S. Navy" or by "regional agents" of the United States, a report on Tehran radio suggested.

Battlefield Action — Iranian artillery inflicted "substantial losses" on Umm Qasr as well as the oil platforms of Al-Badr and Al-'Amayah, IRNA reported, noting that the shelling was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids 10 August. In regard to that action against industrial targets, a military statement cited by INA denied Iranian claims that a Mirage warplane was shot down.

INA also reported a statement denying that there is fighting in Khurmal and other northern areas. The situation is "completely stable," the statement asserted. However, according to Tehran radio, more than 600 Iraqi combatants have been killed in the "Fath-9" operations launched 9 August in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. Furthermore, Tehran radio reported 11 August that Iraqi forces suffered "considerable losses and casualties" when Iranian soldiers repulsed an attack on positions in the "Nasr-7" area near Sardasht. The radio also announced that Iraqi troops suffered 120 casualties in "mopping-up operations" in the Maymak sector.

Iran

In remarks cited by IRNA, the Iranian ambassador to the FRG accused the United States of involving West Germany in its "disputes" with Iran, and he charged that "Western powers" are trying to undermine good relations between Tehran and Bonn. The Iranian diplomats and embassy staff expelled from West Berlin will be transferred to Hamburg, the envoy noted.

Libya-Chad

Some 437 Libyans were killed in the 8 August battle for Aozou, a FANT communique carried by Ndjamena radio announced. According to the Chadian ambassador in Paris, Libyan warplanes attacked Faya-Largeau 10 and 11 August and overflew Kouba Olanga south of the 16th parallel, AFP reported.

In remarks broadcast by Paris radio, Ahmad al-Khudayri, Tripoli's ammbassador to France, declared that Libyan "sovereignty will be defended 100 percent." Libya will continue its raids, the envoy reportedly told Radio Monte Carlo. Meanwhile, a commentary written by the "JANA local affairs editor" and broadcast on Tripoli television charged that in view of the "failed" attack from the north, "imperialist-colonialist forces" are using Chadian President Hissein Habre as a "front" for "new aggression" from the south.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah announced that an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign ministers level will be held in Tunis on 15 August, KUNA reported, noting that the meeting was requested by Tunisia.

Lebanon

Six IDF soldiers in the south were "slightly wounded" by mortar fire, according to an IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio. The radio also reported that an IDF helicopter fired on a "suspicious vehicle." Beirut radio announced that one man was killed and two wounded when four Israeli helicopters attacked the village of Al-Qa'qa'iyah near Al-Nabatiyah.

Egypt

New Antiaircraft Missile — In remarks reported by MENA, Defense Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah disclosed that the air defense forces have been supplied with the first batch of 'Ayn al-Saqr antiaircraft missiles. The Egyptian-developed weapon, also known as the Hawkeye, is now being mass-produced and is expected to be a "strong competitor" on the world market, Abu Ghazalah pointed out.

PLO Office Open — The PLO offices in Cairo reopened after the Addis Ababa summit where President Husni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat met to exchange views, the Jerusalem paper *Al-Sha'b* revealed in an "exclusive" report.

Tunisia

In a statement to a news agency in Paris, Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the 2 August explosions in four tourist hotels, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Afghanistan

PDPA General Secretary Najib returned to Kabul from the Soviet Union, *Bakhtar* reported.

PLO Central Council To Meet in Tunis in Aug

JN101928 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih announced in Amman today that the PLO has invited all Palestinian factions, including those that boycotted the recent Algiers PNC session, to participate in the PLO Central Council meeting to be held in Tunis at the end of this month. The Central Council, which is made up of 92 members, is the link between the PNC and the PLO Executive Council.

Al-Sa'ih explained that the Central Council meeting will seek to unify Palestinian action and will discuss the state of affairs in the occupied territories. The PNC speaker added that the PLO's relations with Egypt and Morocco have noticeably improved. He said that he hopes the PLO's relations with Syria and Jordan will be soon normalized.

PLO Official Comments on Relations With Syria

PM110933 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
1 Aug 87 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PFLP deputy secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] After the recent PNC session, strong winds confronted the Palestinian ship. How will the organization fare in this wind during the coming stage?

['Abd Rabbuh] The PNC session achieved important gains on both an Arab and international level. The Palestinian people within the occupied territories and within all mass organization and various Palestinian communities have expressed their support for these results. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] How do you explain negative Arab reaction to the results of the session?

['Abd Rabbuh] Because of these successes, the proceedings and results of the PNC session met with various reactions. There are trends that do not want the Palestinians to be united or the Palestinian role to be revived once again in order to complete the struggle for Palestinian national rights. It was clear that Cairo's reaction was not warranted by the stipulations adopted by the PNC on Egypt's position. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Can we say that Jordanian-Palestinian relations have returned to the pre-Amman agreement period? Or is this stage different from previous ones?

['Abd Rabbuh] In fact, these relations — especially on the part of Jordan — weaken the possibility of normalization with the PLO. In Jordan there is still work according to the so-called "development plan" in the occupied territories. There are still positions declared by the government regarding independent Palestinian representation through the PLO at the international conference. [passage omitted] The PLO is eager for relations with Jordan to be established on common foundations that will serve the Palestinian struggle inside the occupied territories, as well as Jordanian interests, in the confrontation with Zionist expansionism and the constant threats to the independence of this fraternal country.

[Khashanah] With the resolutions from the recent PNC session, the PLO seems to have moved a step forward with regard to rapprochement with Syria. To what extent does the Syrian regime respond to you? And is there any contact on such a step?

['Abd Rabbuh] In fact, there is nothing new at the level of Syrian-Palestinian relations. All we know is that the Syrian leadership has promised to study the proposals we have presented, which basically call for talks between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships in Damascus. This dialogue can begin by receiving the PLO Executive Committee in Damascus in order to arrange for an expanded dialogue. However, we have not yet received a final answer to this proposal. This is with the knowledge that the PNC resolutions stressed the priority of relations with Syria and the need to establish them on the basis of common objectives, mutual respect, and mutual correspondence. The resolutions which the PNC adopted at its recent session open the door to direct dialogue between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships. As for pending problems — that is, special Palestinian problems — they are connected with the fact that some organizations did not participate in the PNC proceedings. For our part, we have left the door open for these organizations to conduct a dialogue and join the march of Palestinian unity achieved and established in Algiers. Since this is a Palestinian affair, we can still seek to achieve it. Anyhow, there was nothing to prevent these organizations from participating in the PNC proceedings. We hope that the PNC's positive results will encourage them not to remain isolated from the national unity march.

[Khashanah] Will the Executive Committee study the formation of the committee which will go to Damascus?

['Abd Rabbuh] We had made a decision regarding the need to begin a dialogue and prepare for the formation of a delegation from the PLO. However, the matter now depends on the opinion and the decision of the Syrian leadership, of which we have not yet been informed. We hope there is a positive readiness on Syria's part to take a first step with us toward what we are seeking to achieve; namely, to unite the ranks of forces that have common interests in our region. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Chad-Libya Dispute

LD101628 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 10 Aug (APS) — The spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

Developments in the border dispute between Chad and Libya arouse concern because armed violence, regrettably, was resorted to, at a time when all the people with good will in Africa and outside it have been calling for a peaceful solution to the dispute, either by political means or through arbitration, and have been working to ensure that this solution replaces the sole (?law) of arms.

Only a few days ago, the 23d conference of the heads of OAU governments and states decided to ask its committee dealing with the border dispute between Chad and Libya to raise the level of dialogue and negotiations to the highest political level as a means for solving the dispute.

In view of this, resorting to arms in this conflict cannot but be a regrettable detraction from the credibility of this committee and the task entrusted to it. It is also a detraction from the credibility of the OAU's constant efforts and those of all the people the OAU entrusted to act on its behalf to ensure that the final word in the Chadian-Libyan dispute is governed by the sublime principles specifically contained in the OAU Charter and by the ideals and values Africa intends to be its course in African relations.

By adopting this resolution the OAU has proven its determination to quickly find a peaceful solution to this dispute, and to this end, has sought the two sides' sincere and responsible assistance.

The military option can only be a source for aggravating the situation and redoubling the problems confronting the OAU's mission.

Algeria regrets this situation and expresses its sincere hope that the situation will calm down and that wisdom will take a prominent position in the interest of dialogue and a peaceful solution to this dispute, which has for long been tearing at two brotherly countries and peoples that are naturally able to live in the shelter of good-neighborliness, cooperation, and harmony.

Officials Leave With Message for Bourguiba

LD061117 Algiers APS in English 1035 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 6/8/87 (APS) — Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member, head of the CC Permanent Secretariat accompanied with Mr El Hadi Khdiri, CC member, home minister left today Algiers to Tunis to deliver a message from President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, FLN Party secretary general to President Bourguiba.

Mr Messaadia is to present on behalf of the president of the Republic the best wishes to the Tunisian president on the occasion of his birth anniversary and the celebration of 'Id al-Adha.

Return to Algiers

LD070224 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member and official in charge of the permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, returned to Algiers Friday evening after visiting Monastir. He was accompanied by Interior Minister El Hadi Khdiri. During the visit, he held important political talks with Tunisian leaders. [passage omitted]

Messaadia later held a working session with [Tunisian Prime Minister] Sfar. In a press statement, Messaadia focused on the brotherly nature of relations between the two countries' presidents and the two brotherly peoples. He said he delivered a letter to President Bourguiba from his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid. President Bourguiba entrusted him to convey his greetings to President Bendjedid.

Messaadia said he exchanged views with Tunisian leaders on issues pertaining to bilateral relations, the greater Arab Maghreb and [words indistinct] joint action.

Ibrahimi Receives Saudi Envoy, Iranian Charge

LD092057 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, received today the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Hassan Faqih, who handed him a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, addressed to President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also received the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Islamic Republic to Algeria, Seyfollah Salehiniya, handed him a message from the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the two meetings, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi expressed Algeria's will to calm relations between the fraternal states and prevent the regrettable incidents which took place in holy Mecca from being a reason for a further deterioration in the complicated situation prevailing in the Gulf. The foreign minister also renewed Algeria's conviction about the necessity for all Islamic states to exert possible efforts to preserve in pilgrimage to the holy places its spiritual dimension and its character of deepening brotherhood and unity between all Muslims in the world.

Reportage on Border Actions Against Libyan Forces

Sites Bombed, Overflown

AB101410 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The latest report from the FANT High Command states that two Libyan aircraft yesterday bombed [words indistinct] and the town of Faya-Largeau. Two other Libyan Air Force aircraft flew over the town of Ounianga Kebir this morning at 0700. We ask our listeners to stay tuned because the FANT High Command will at any time now announce an important communique.

FANT Issues Aozou Communique

AB101957 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 Aug 87

["Communique No 66" issued by the FANT High Command on 10 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] In Communique No 65, we announced the capture of Aozou from Libyan forces on 8 August 1987. Here is the provisional outcome of the fighting that took place in Aozou and its surrounding areas:

On the enemy side: Some 437 dead Libyans were counted; 61 prisoners of war. Materiel captured: 12 Toyotas equipped with 107-mm surface-to-surface [missiles] [sol-sol 107] captured; 19 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns captured; 7 jeeps equipped with 106-mm guns captured; 32 Toyota troop carriers captured; 7 heavy-duty Mercedes trucks captured; 6 Mercedes fuel tanks captured.

Equipment destroyed: 13 BM-21's [122-mm multiple rocket systems] destroyed; 5 T-55 tanks destroyed; 7 BMP armored personnel carriers destroyed; 13 Toyotas equipped with 107-mm surface-to-surface [missiles] [sol-sol 107] destroyed; 9 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns destroyed; 11 gas and diesel oil Mercedes tanks destroyed; 10 jeeps equipped with 106-mm guns destroyed; 9 heavy-duty Mercedes trucks loaded with ammunition destroyed; 8 Toyota troop carriers destroyed; and a large quantity of assorted-caliber ammunition destroyed.

On the FANT side: 17 martyrs gloriously fell on the battlefront; 54 were wounded. Equipment destroyed: 11 vehicles and a container of ammunition destroyed.

Immortal glory to our martyrs who fell on the field of honor.

Bombing, Overflights Continue

AB101714 Paris AFP in French 1624 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, 10 Aug (AFP) — Two Libyan bombers dropped bombs on Faya-Largeau yesterday at 1700, Chad's Ambassador to Paris Ahmad Allam-Mi stated today.

This morning at 0700 local time, two Libyan bombers overflew Kouba Olanga south of the 16th parallel, the ambassador also stated.

Envoy on Broadened Air Strikes

AB111107 Paris AFP in French 1021 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Paris, 11 Aug (AFP) — Libyan bombers renewed their attacks against Faya-Largeau this morning, Chad's Ambassador to Paris Ahmad Allam-Mi asserted to AFP. Three bombers dropped bombs this morning around 0730, he stated. The large palm grove of Faya-Largeau, in the BET (Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti) Prefecture, which was taken from Libya on 27 March 1987, had already been the target of two Libyan bombers on 9 August.

The increase in the expanse of Libya's air attacks, which were earlier confined to the Aozou region — recaptured on 8 August by the FANT — and to Chadian positions in the Tibesti area, appear to be a prelude to the counteroffensive Libya is planning against Chad. [passage omitted]

Sources close to the Chadian Embassy in Paris today stated that the "generous appeals" for negotiations between Ndjamena and Tripoli on the "Aozou Strip" have always been "received and understood, and continue to be understood by Chad." Nevertheless, they added, these are not sufficient to "put an end to a war imposed on Chad by Al-Qadhdhafi's regime for 10 years."

The issue is not a conflict over a border, they noted. "It is absurd to reduce the issue to that dimension." The relevant issue is "that of the existence of a country and the survival of its people," the same sources added. [passage omitted]

Aircraft Raid Sites 11 Aug

AB111225 Paris AFP in French 1205 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, 11 Aug (AFP) — Libyan bombers this morning bombed the former base of Ouadi Doum, which was seized by Chadian forces in March 1987, as well as Ounianga Kebir (northwestern Chad), and Aozou, in the Tibesti area, the Chadian Embassy confirmed to AFP in Paris. The embassy had earlier announced that bombing occurred this morning at Faya-Largeau, in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET) Prefecture.

President Briefs U.S., French Envoys on Aozou

AB101533 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Activities of the president of the Republic today: President Hissein Habre held private talks with the French ambassador to Chad this morning at 1100 [1000 GMT]. The president then received the U.S. representative to Chad at 1230 [1130 GMT].

In meeting with the U.S. envoy, the head of state discussed bilateral relations between Washington and Ndjamena. Aside from bilateral relations, which El Hadj Hissein Habre discussed with both the French and U.S. diplomats, the head of state also briefed them on the latest developments marked by the FANT's capture of the Aozou administrative post. The many threats that the Libyan colonel has made against the Republic of Chad apparently have had no effect on the FANT.

It should be recalled that President Hissein Habre conducted a friendly and working visit to the United States from 2 to 10 July. He also made a similar visit to France from 10 to 15 July.

Envoy to Paris Comments on Aozou Base in Libya
LD091648 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The news came through the teleprinter yesterday evening at approximately 2030 GMT: The town of Aozou, until then occupied by the Libyan Army, had been captured by the Chadian Army. [passage omitted] During the evening, a triumphant communique was issued by Radio Chad: 'We are occupying the town of Aozou. This detail is important since there is in fact a nuance of meaning — not an insignificant one — between the post of Aozou town situated in Chadian territory, and the Aozou base entirely constructed by Libya on her territory not far from the border. The Chadian ambassador in Paris, Allam-Mi, discusses this nuance:

[Begin recording] [Allam-Mi] Chad liberated the town of Aozou,which lies in Chadian territory. There is talk of, and this is a concrete fact, the existence of a base on the Chadian-Libyan border. This base is important. It was recently constructed — artificially — entirely by Libya in the middle of the desert. It additionally constitutes a significant threat to Chad. Chad wishes to live in peace with all her neighbors, including Libya, within the framework of a treaty of friendship, good-neighborliness, and nonaggression between the two countries. It is desirable for the two countries, for the two peoples, that this base should not exist where it now stands.

[Unidentified correspondent] You do not fear a riposte from the Libyan Army from this base?

[Allam-Mi] The Libyan Army has certainly been weakened by the latest clashes, and I have faith in the FANT and remain optimistic that they will be able to deal with any eventuality, that they will be able to (?rout) any possible Libyan intervention. All the same,one must be cautious, for the Tripoli regime is unpredictable. [end recording]

[Announcer] You have just heard that Chad's ambassador to Paris does not rule out a future diplomatic solution to solve the difficulty of potential danger that this Libyan military base represents. Some 10 days after the 23d OAU summit called on the two sides to refrain from any military action, weapons have thus been employed. The Chadians are insisting that it was the Libyan offensive against Bardai that served to spark the assault on Aozou. Here is Chad's ambassador to Paris:

[Begin recording] [Allam-Mi] Libya has once again provided us with an opportunity by taking the initiative of attacking our positions. We then seized this opportunity to liberate part of our country that has been occupied since 1973 — in other words the Aozou Strip — and we hope that France, which all this time has been a friendly nation, a country that has supported Chad throughout the harsh ordeal it has undergone, will continue to give her assistance so that all these achievements can be consolidated.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you hoping for the OAU's mediation to bring about the dismantling of this Libyan base, which in your view constitutes a threat? Is this an eventuality that can be envisaged by the Chadian authorities?

[Allam-Mi] Absolutely. In any case, the problem between Chad and Libya is a problem that is not restricted to a simple border disagreement. As I was saying just now, it is a problem of peaceful coexistence between two countries. This peaceful coexistence is necessary to both peoples, to both countries. There is the Tripoli regime, which does not view matters as we do, while for our part we are prepared at any time to settle all differences between us and Libya through negotiations.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic; is it the end of the war?

[Allam-Mi] It is difficult to be optimistic when one is dealing with the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In Paris we contacted the Libyan Embassy, which replied that it had no comment on the latest events. The official Libyan media have still not yet mentioned the fighting at Aozou.

French Parliamentarian Rocard Arrives 7 Aug
AB081305 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The visit of Michel Rocard to our country enters its 2d day today. He arrived in Ndjamena yesterday from Cameroon. The French parliamentarian, who is making his first visit to Chad, will hold a series of talks with Chadian authorities, and will be received in audience by the head of state at 1200. [passage omitted]

Meets With Habre
AB090922 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Michel Rocard, who was visiting our country, departed our capital last night. The former French Socialist minister of agriculture was received by the head of state at 1200 yesterday. El Hadj Hissein Habre and Michel Rocard held talks for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Following this meeting, our reporter Abba Likaya met with Mr Rocard. Mr Rocard first discussed the topics that were discussed with the Republic's president. Here he is:

[Begin Rocard recording] For a French political official visiting Chad, there are two major topics that must be discussed. One is the strategic and diplomatic situation and the other is Chad's economic development. [passage indistinct] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mr Rocard departed our country yesterday at 2300 for Paris.

Hails Recapture of Aozou

AB101058 Paris AFP in French 0911 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 10 Aug (AFP) — Michel Rocard, former French minister of agriculture, paid tribute to the Chadian Army, which seized Aozou District — located on the border strip claimed by both Chad and Libya — on 8 August.

In remarks to AFP shortly before his departure from Chad at the conclusion of a visit in which he was received by President Hirsein Habre, Mr Rocard hailed the "valiant FANT, which fought for months to restore Chad's unity and sovereignty."

The Socialist parliamentarian, who departed Ndjamena shortly after the official announcement of Aozou's capture by the Chadian Army, expressed the hope that "Chad would now be able to find the peace it deserves, like all other countries, and devote all its strength and energy to development."

Mubarak Scheduled To Visit Jordan in 'Mid-August'
NC110857 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Cairo, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* — A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has disclosed that consultations are under way between Cairo and Amman to arrange a date for President Mubarak's visit to Jordan for talks with King Husayn on a number of international and bilateral issues. The source added that the visit is scheduled to take place in mid-August. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports in Cairo indicate that Egypt is now seeking a meeting between the Jordanian monarch and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat so that they can reach agreement on Palestinian representation at the international conference. This is one of the complex issues hindering the convocation of such a conference. It cannot be settled without an agreement between King Husayn and Mr 'Arafat, particularly since Jordanian-Palestinian differences have an impact on the peace efforts. The reports add that when they meet, the Jordanian king and the Egyptian president will discuss recent developments in the Gulf, Iranian threats, and Egypt's call for an emergency Islamic summit conference.

In the meantime, the same diplomatic source has affirmed that Egypt's recent contacts with the PLO have made considerable progress with regard to the PLO's stand on an international conference and the problem of Palestinian representation at this conference. [passage omitted]

Abu Ghazalah on Missile; 'No Comment' on Chad
NC101531 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has stated that the Egyptian-made 'Ayn al-Saqr missile has entered service in the Armed Forces. He noted that this missile is now being mass-produced after having successfully completed the latest tests. He revealed that the Air Defense Forces have accepted the first batch of these missiles. Abu Ghazalah disclosed that $180 million was spent on developing this low-flying antiair missile. The funding came from the Defense Ministry's own resources and did not impose any burden upon the state budget.

Abu Ghazalah expressed his belief that the missile will be a strong competitor to similar types on the world market in view of lower production costs. He pointed out that Egypt has achieved self-sufficiency in many types of missiles. These observations were contained in a statement made by Abu Ghazalah following a tour during which he inspected a number of military projects being developed at the Saqr factory for advanced industries of the Arab Organization for Industrialization. [passage omitted]

Regarding the situation in Chad in the wake of reports that Chadian forces have launched operations to regain the Aozou Strip, which Libyan forces have occupied, Abu Ghazalah asserted: "I have no comment on this issue. All I can say is that the Libyan people are friends and brothers of the Egyptians. There have been intermarriages between many Egyptian and Libyan families. The issue centers on the fact that the Libyan administration became involved in things in which it should not have become involved." He expressed his hope that peace would return to the region and that all states would maintain their legitimate borders without attempting to attack others. [passage omitted]

Abu Ghazalah on Export of Missiles to Iraq
NC110844 Cairo MENA in English 0700 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, August 11 (MENA) — During a visit to Saqr (Hawk) Military Works, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence and Military Production Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said Egypt had exported BM-21 missiles in big quantities to Iraq during the past years and that these missiles were among the factors that gave Iraq the capability of resistance in its war with Iran, report *Al-Akhbar* and *Al-Jumhuriyah* in their top billing and leading front-page stories and *Al-Ahram* on the centre of its front page.

He said the series of Egyptian Hawkeye missiles had entered the service of the Armed Forces and that these had passed their last tests and were now in the stage of mass production. The Hawkeye series is made up of Hawkeye-10 of 122-milimetre calibre which has a range of 11 kilometres, Hawkeye-18 which has a range of 20 kilometres, and Hawkeye-30 which has a range of 33 kilometres. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR Notes Debate on Public Sector Ownership
NC090515 Cairo MENA in English 2200 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, Aug 8 (MENA) — An Egyptian leading newspaper article is discussing proposals on changing public sector property from state-run property to popular-run property.

The suggestion is presented in tomorrow's *Al-Akhbar* by Musa Sabri, who is running his theme under a title referring to the talk of a courageous man.

The headline "Courageous Man" is Minister of Tourism Dr Fu'ad Sultan, who was interviewed by *Uktubar*, a Cairo weekly magazine, on this score.

He is calling for having the public sector turned into popular, rather than government, property.

In the article, Musa Sabri discloses that Dr 'Ali Lutfi, former prime minister and current speaker of the Consultative Council, is of the same opinion, favouring that the popular property share be within the range of 49 percent, and that the state property share be as it is now (51 percent.)

The writer is quoting other unidentified Egyptian officials and economists as having the same opinion.

The article, while explaining that the state cannot shoulder a continuous public sector subsidy, cites the British experiment and calls for initiating a general dialogue on this vital issue.

Reaction to Chad Offensive in Aozou Reported

Raids To Continue

JN101919 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Following the fall of Aozou in northern Chad, Libya has resumed its raids on the area. Tripoli considers Aozou to bepart of its territory. Libyan Ambassador to Paris Ahmad al-Hudayri has told Radio Monte Carlo that Libya will continue its raids and that the conflict may be exacerbated.

Envoy Opposes Court Mediation

LD102223 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The Libyan authorities are implying that they are preparing a counteroffensive. Here is Ahmad al-Hudayri, Libyan charge d'affaires [title as received] in Paris:

[Begin recording] It is a premeditated, prepared aggression conducted by Habre and his men against Libyan territory. There is no real need to say what we will do, but our sovereignty will be defended 100 percent. Libya and Libyans are ready to die in defenseof their cause. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The Libyan charge d'affaires predicts a counterattack by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. He condemned the attack by Chad in an interview with Paris Radio's (Frederic Cocon).

[Begin recording] [Al-Hudayri] What is extraordinary is that the OAU has just concluded its summit and I think that it recommended that the parties concerned should not aggravate the situation and not create further tension. Libya has respected this. I think that Habre has told all of Africa and its leaders that he does not really give a damn about what Africa has decided. More than this, I think that Habre wants to aggravate matters by creating an explosive situation. Perhaps he wants to bring France into his (?trap)

I think that all border disputes in Africa are referred to the OAU. We must trust this organization. It is true that it has not always succeeded, but that is no reason to say it will not succeed.

[(Cocon)] Are you going to the OAU rather than resorting to the other diplomatic efforts now under way? For example, what aboutthe approaches being made to the International Court of Justice at The Hague on behalf of the mediation coming from Algeria which is being discussed?

[Al-Hudayri] You know that one does not submit one's sovereignty to international bodies. For us this sector is an integral part of our territory. We do not see why we should go before a court to decide whether it is under our sovereignty or not. [end recording]

French Role in Attack Confirmed

LD101756 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Hannibal [August] 10, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The Paris-based daily, *L'HUMANITE*, out today has confirmed the involvement of French troops in the attack on the Libyan Arab Aozou oasis.

The paper adds that it would have been impossible for the troops of Habre to launch this attack on the above oasis without France's assistance.

The paper reaffirms the news coming to Paris which stresses that both puppet Habre and the French have decided to step up the war. Such a decision entails very grave consequences coming within few days after the conclusion of the African summit which called for achieving a peaceful solution to the question.

JANA Editor Comments

LD102236 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The JANA local affairs editor has asserted that the recent imperialist aggression on the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah did not surprise us. On the contrary, it was very much expected. We have repeatedly drawn attention to it and said that the imperialist-colonialist forces, which failed to harm the Great Jamahiriyah across the latter's northern border, have moved south to launch a new aggression across the southern Libyan Arab border. They have utilized their agent Habre as a front and a camouflage for this aggression.

Therefore, we are facing clear, premeditated, and hostile imperialist intentions. We have no confidence in what the perpetrators of such things say about dialogue, placing bets on good intentions, or trusting in what some international agreements have stipulated, particularly the OAU Charter. Throughout history — especially modern history — imperialism has never harbored any respect or appreciation for the African Continent and its people, let alone the OAU! Imperialism does not look at this continent except through the eyes of expansion and monopoly. The intention is to transform this continent into a plantation for exploiting capital.

Imperialism, therefore, does not look at this continent's representatives — whether an organization or individuals — except with disdain. Imperialism prefers to deal with this continent from a high position, looking down on it. This is the policy followed by the imperialists in their clamor over the African Continent, invading its territories from the colonialist era to the reinvasion of Chad and transforming it into a colonialist protectorate en route to a complete return to its colonialization.

If this is the case with imperialists, what independence do their agents have to participate in dialogue or to yield to good will? There can be no dialogue with agents and traitors. They do not hold dialogues but implement what their masters dictate. Proceeding from this premise, being aware of imperialist intentions and strategic dimensions, and thanks to our experience in clashes with imperialism and its agents, we have never seriously believed

in what these imperialists and their agents are spreading. We resort to good intentions and their readiness to depend on dialogue as an arbitor in the dispute. Their aggression yesterday on the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah was but a prelude for the only thing that we take absolutely seriously.

Envoy to Cyprus Briefs Acting President on Aozou

LD101640 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Nicosia, 10 Aug (JANA) -- Dr Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives and acting president of the Republic, has received the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Cyprus. During this meeting, they discussed cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Cyprus and ways to reinforce and develop it in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

The secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Cyprus also briefed the acting Cypriot president on the aggression launched against the Great Jamahiriyah's southern borders by imperialist, colonialist, and reactionary forces. He stressed that this aggression is a blatant violation of international charters and conventions and that it poses a threat to peace in the region and the world.

Maltese Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Cooperation Talks Held 8 Aug

LD082055 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA) — Libyan Arab-Maltese talks began in the conference hall of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this evening in an effort to strengthen cooperation within the framework of agreements signed between the two countries and to promote mutual interests.

The talks were attended by the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry, and a number of brother experts and technicians from different secretariats.

On behalf of Malta, they were attended by Foreign Minister Dr Vincent Tabone; (John Wali), parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Industry; (Afarit Maybih), under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; (Rali Shantar), the Maltese official in charge of energy and development; and the Maltese charge d'affaires in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison began by welcoming the Maltese foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. He pointed out the importance of this visit in the development and consolidation of bilateral cooperation and the achievement of common aims for this cooperation. He also affirmed the eagerness of the Great Jamahiriyah for the consolidation of its relations with Malta in various fields and the strengthening of existing ties of friendship between the Libyan Arab people and the friendly Maltese people. He noted that we in the Great Jamahiriyah and the citizens of Malta aspire to the same goals. We have the desire and will to realize this cooperation and to push it forward; these are not new relations but date from some time in the past.

As a result of serious work in the past, he asserted that we have been able to lay down firm foundations and a sound platform for fruitful cooperation in all fields in the interest of the two countries.

Dr Vincent Tabone, the Maltese foreign minister, expressed his country's sincere wish to strengthen its relations with the Great Jamahiriyah in all fields in order to achieve the interests of the two friendly countries. He said: In order to eliminate any misunderstanding, we affirm to everyone the strong desire of our government for the consolidation and continuation of our relations with the Jamahiriyah on the basis of committed and fruitful cooperation, built on ties of friendship and cooperation in all fields.

He pointed out that the fruitful bilateral relations began with the outbreak of the great September revolution, which gave these ties a fresh impetus that enabled us to raise them up to a level corresponding to the two friendly peoples' ambitions. We reaffirm our desire to maintain these relations and to promote them as a reflection of our conviction of the importance of this cooperation to the interests of our two countries.

He announced that the Maltese Government and people will continue to provide the necessary effort and drive to further deepen these relations in order for us to achieve the objectives for which we strive through this cooperation.

The meeting stressed the importance of joint action to implement all the agreements signed between the two countries and to support joint companies in a way that will enable them to perform a role in achieving expected results.

Numerous technical committees were set up during the session which will study all aspects of cooperation in preparation for discussion about them at the next meeting, scheduled to be held tomorrow.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Foreign Minister

LD091239 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1134 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Press Statement Released

LD101712 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1512 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Aug (JANA) — A joint Libyan Arab-Maltese press statement was released in Valetta and Tripoli today at the end of the visit of Dr Vincent Tabone, the Maltese foreign minister, to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The text of this statement follows:

At the invitation of the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, Maltese Foreign

Minister Vincent Tabone visited the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah between 8 and 10 August 1987 at the head of an important delegation, which included Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Affairs (John Dali).

During his visit, the Maltese foreign minister met with the brother leader of the revolution. He conveyed to him the greetings and respects of the Maltese Government and people, stressing the depth of the historical relations existing between the Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples.

The Maltese foreign minister praised the relations of friendship existing between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Malta. He emphasized his government's commitment to all the agreements signed between the two countries and its desire to develop and deepen relations in various fields.

The Maltese delegation held a series of talks covering various political, cultural, economic, and technical matters. The two sides expressed their great satisfaction with the relations of cooperation existing between them and emphasized the importance of developing these ties to serve the mutual interests of the two brotherly peoples. They also agreed to open new avenues for constructive cooperation, to intensify meetings and contacts at all levels, and to develop programs to this effect.

The two sides reviewed political issues of mutual interest. In this respect they agreed to cooperate in the international arena and within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

The two sides agreed on the need to prevent war and its causes in the Mediterranean region. They agreed to cooperate to transform the Mediterranean Sea into a lake of peace and stability.

A protocol agreement was signed during the visit on the consolidation of cooperation in the economic, commercial, and technical fields.

The Maltese foreign minister invited the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to visit Malta. The invitation was accepted and a date willbe arranged later.

Foreign Minister Departs 10 Aug

LD102151 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Aug (JANA) — Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at noon today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Afghan Official Delivers Foreign Ministry Message

LD102052 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Aug (JANA) — The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison conferred with Sarwar Yoresh, member of the DRA Revolutionary Council and director general of the *Bakhtar News Agency* this evening. The Afghan visitor handed the brother secretary a written message from his foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed the development of relations between the two friendly peoples.

Algerian Chief of Staff Leaves Tripoli 10 Aug

LD102030 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 10 Aug (JANA) -- Major General Abdallah Belhouchet, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau and chief of staff of the Algerian Armed Forces, left Tripoli after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

SPLM-SPLA Press Statement on Peace Initiative

EA082120 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Press statement issued by the SPLM-SPLA on 27 July: "On the Khartoum Government's So-Called New Peace Initiative of April 1987" -- place not given]

[Text] The charge of war-mongering that has been leveled against the SPLM-SPLA by Khartoum has no basis in reality. The movement wishes to underline again that it does not wage war for its own sake, but for the achievement of the universally cherished goals of equality, freedom, and human dignity for all, regardless of race, birth or origin, confessional loyalties, or other spiritual beliefs. It is precisely because of our conviction that possibilities do exist for the attainment of these goals through peaceful means, that we have refused to yield to frustration and despair despite the many roadblocks being mounted along the road leading to peace by the enemies of social justice, stability, and progress.

It is to be recalled that it was SPLM-SPLA and not the Khartoum government which took the initiative to launch the first genuine call for peace. That was on 22d March 1985, 2 weeks before the March-April popular uprising, when the SPLM-SPLA leader, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, delivered a speech in which he formally extended, in his capacity as chairman and commander in chief of SPLM-SPLA, an invitation to all the political forces to engage in a process of national dialogue. In that statement he said — I quote — We envisage a national congress to be organized by the SPLA, progressive and patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army, and other democratic forces in the country to discuss the essence and program for the formation of a new Sudan and its new army consistent with its particularities — unquote.

This appeal for dialogue evoked a positive response from all the patriotic elements in the Sudanese body politic, leading to a preliminary dialogue that culminated in the Koka Dam Declaration of March 1986 prior to the ascendency of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to power.

Of course, the Ummah Party took part in the preliminary dialogue not because it was genuinely interested in a broad-based national dialogue, but simply because it thought it would be politically expedient to share a forum with SPLM-SPLA, given the imminence of an Ummah-led coalition government at the time.

Last April the Khartoum government launched what's purported to be a new peace initiative. On 19 April 1987, the SPLM-SPLA received a document entitled: "An Initiative Project for the Peaceful Solution — National Call." It is supposed that the initiative project was launched within the context of the quest for peace in Sudan. But before attempting any incisive scrutiny of the document, it is important first to peruse together for a while its contents.

Here now is the official text of the English-language version of the document for the benefit of the listener:

In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful. "An Initiative Project for the Peaceful Solution — National Call."

To those who are still holding arms, we hereby introduce this genuine national call. The Koka Dam meeting was held in March 1986. At that time the Sudanese political parties were completely occupied in general elections. Also there were two of the Sudan's important parties, that is, the Democratic Unionist and the National Islamic Front; they have not altogether participated in the Koka Dam meeting. Despite that, the Koka Dam accord has comprised objective bases which will pave the way to the national constitutional conference. Thus, and in the name of all Sudanese political forces aspiring for a peaceful, equitable solution for the inherited problems of the country, I announce the following initiatives:

1. We confirm that the chronic problems for our country should be discussed and tackled in a national and not regional context.

2. September laws are in their way to perish and to be replaced by a legal position based on diversity in a way which satisfies the aspirations of Muslims in areas of Muslim majority and the aspirations of non-Muslims in other areas. This will be accomplished under a rule which secures the right of one citizenship for all, provided that holding constitutional posts should continue to be governed by the opinion of the majority without discrimination based on religion, race, origin, or any other qualifications.

3. Article 4, the object of controversy in the transitional constitution, could be broadened to include all the nonbasic allegiances in the Sudan.

4. The Sudan is now adopting a new foreign policy oriented towards nonalignment, a nonpolarized one, and based on self-defense.

5. The state of emergency temporarily imposed on Sudan now allows for securing freedom of citizens. It will be lifted as soon as the cease-fire is realized.

6. A national popular committee is formed to discuss the agenda, date, and formation of the national constitutional conference. It is liable to more deliberations so as to arrive at an agreement over these matters.

In order to continue in the way of peaceful solution, we call for abiding by a temporary cease-fire during the popular uprising month. This starts on a date which will be agreed upon and suggest the following:

Your positive response to the cease-fire for 2 weeks and your abiding by the defined regulations during the 2 weeks' period;

Holding an immediate delegated meeting to discuss the agenda, time, and formation of the national constitutional conference;

Holding a delegated technical meeting following the mentioned political meeting to agree upon the agreement for a constant cease-fire. In the light of the cease-fire agreement, a quick relief plan is to be agreed upon to include all the military operations area. The Sudan will come holding these meetings in any place

of its land or in the land of any neutral country. [sentence as heard]

As you know, that the military solution is not the answer and that fighting will do no more than exposing thousands of innocent citizens to endanger their lives and hinder development of the south, for this, we send forth this call in order to cease fire and to proceed together towards the peaceful solution and to direct all the Sudanese energy to build the nation. We urge you to accept the peaceful solution so that it participates in the democratic march of the new Sudan, a Sudan which tackles its problems by free dialogue and safeguards for all its citizens basic freedom and human rights.

That was the document.

The receipt of the Khartoum government initiative project for a peaceful solution that has just been read to you was promptly acknowledged by the SPLM-SPLA the following day, 20 April 1987, through an official note handed over to the person who had delivered the initiative project to a representative of SPLM-SPLA. The so-called initiative project for the peaceful solution or national call is absolutely devoid of the slightest hint that the Al-Sadiq government is really serious about peace and dialogue. In this connection, the following is worthy of note:

A. The English version of the national call is almost incomprehensible, and would not have made much sense had it not been read in conjunction with its Arabic equivalent which presumably is the original. We find it inexcusable that the Al-Sadiq government, with all its facilities, cannot render a proper translation of such documents which it regards important.

B. The national call has no letterheads, no signature, and no date. Again, it is only presumed that it is what Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had been talking about in the press as his new and genuine peace initiative. In addition, Mr Muhammad Bashir, the OAU official who delivered the national call to SPLM-SPLA, disclosed that it had come from the prime minister's office. Without this information, it would not have been possible to ascertain its authenticity. In spite of all the ambiguities surrounding the national call, we acknowledged its receipt.

C. The national call is not addressed to SPLM-SPLA. It opens with the following words — I quote — to those who are still holding arms, we hereby introduce this genuine national call — unquote.

It is to be pointed out that besides SPLM-SPLA, there are many political as well as bandit groups who are still holding arms in the Sudan and indeed in all parts of the Sudan. The two major political parties, namely the Ummah and the National Islamic Front, the NIF, maintain either party or tribal militias or both, even in Khartoum itself. There are many citizens holding unlicensed arms and who pose a constant security risk as they pillage the unarmed sectors of the population. The so-called Murahilins, who have been responsible for the havoc in northern Bahr al-Ghazal, Northern Upper Nile, and Southern Kurdufan, typically exemplify the bandit category of those carrying arms in Sudan. The so-called Murahilins, who murder, maim, plunder, and abduct at will and with impunity, prosecute their activities with the acquiescence and more frequently with the instigation and support of the prime minister himself.

This being the situation, there is no reason to suppose that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's own tribal and party militia organizations should be exempt from a national call, which incidentally, is not addressed to any specific group or person.

D. The national call implicitly argued that no great importance [is] attached to the Koka Dam declaration, notwithstanding its intrinsic merits, because two of the major Sudanese political parties, namely the DUP and the NIF, are not parties to the said declaration. It is true that the two parties were not represented at the Koka Dam conference, but the Joint Liaison Committee was able, in its meeting, to overcome the problem and arrive at a mechanism for broadening further the base of the Koka Dam peace process by resolving that both the DUP and the NIF would be invited to partake of the deliberations of the Joint Liaison Committee which was entrusted with the task of preparing the ground for the national constitutional conference.

E. The national call acknowledges that the country's problems are national and should be discussed in a national, rather than a regional, context. Nevertheless, it is important to be cognizant of the fact that the position of the prime minister on the precise subject matter of any national constitutional conference has been riddled with contradictions, to put it mildly. Depending on the audience being addressed, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi would at times speak of finding a solution to the so-called problem of the South and at other times of finding means and ways to solve the problems of Sudan. The prime minister betrays his true feelings on the issue when he remarks in the national call that the war will only endanger lives and hinder the development of the South. This is tantamount to telling the SPLA that, after all, the North stands to lose nothing from the war which is destroying only the south Sudan. Despite the gravity of the situation now prevailing in Sudan and the serious economic repercussions of the war, the prime minister still feels complacent because the conflict is yet to exert a toll in other parts of Sudan.

F. The tenacious adherence by the Khartoum government and the opposition National Islamic Front, the NIF, to Islamic Shari'ah laws in a traumatic political experience for Sudan. The ongoing efforts to reinforce rather than scrap the Shari'ah laws of 1983, which had been decreed by Ja'far Numayri solely for the purpose of serving his own political ends, have dealt a mortal blow to prospects for peace in Sudan. No doubt, the cancellation of Shari'ah laws, as stipulated by the Koka Dam declaration, would have constituted a big stride in the direction of the national constitutional conference. It has to be reiterated that SPLM-SPLA will only accept strictly secular laws and not accept proper Islamic laws the prime minister has vowed to institute. The SPLM-SPLA catogerically rejects the concept of the majority that is being propounded and exploited by the successive regimes of Khartoum to isolate large segments of the population from the political process and thereby deny them their legitimate basic rights.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi often speaks of the majority. But then there is no one single definition of a majority or a criterion for its determination. Since there is a religious as well as a racial

majority in Sudan, the question would arise as to which of the two should be adopted as a yardstick for gauging political rights. Sudan's traditional rulers tend to place exclusive reliance on Islam, the religion professed by most Sudanese, as the rationale for their claims of political power, ignoring altogether the fact that there are others who would feel equally entitled to invoke the racial — African — majority to back claims to political supremacy.

It serves no useful purpose to talk of a majority. And if at all such a thing as a majority is to be recognized in Sudan, then it is the broad masses of the dispossessed who constitute a majority in Sudan. Poverty transcends all racial and religious boundaries. The impoverished slum dwellers of the country's main cities and those living in the rural areas form the bulk of our population. They include both peoples of Arab and African stock and are to be found across the various religious denominations. Destitute Muslims, Christians, and persons professing other spiritual beliefs live side by side in Sudan's various communities.

G. The national call suggests that Article Four of the Transitional Constitution, described as the subject of controversy, could be broadened to include all the known basic religions in Sudan. The SPLM-SPLA is not interested in the derivation of legislation from any one religion or religions. We have been consistently calling for the reinstatement of the 1956 Constitution as amended in 1964, because we believe that in our multinational, multicultural, and multireligious context, we are best served by a legal system that is purely secular in nature.

H. The SPLM-SPLA has time and again stated that its role is not to bless decisions taken by others. This message does not seem to be getting through, as indicated by the mention in the national call of the so-called National Popular Committee that is said to be working towards a national constitutional conference. The SPLM-SPLA is not part of Khartoum's National Popular Committee which was formed without prior consultations with the movement. To participate in any national constitutional conference on the fundamental problems of Sudan, the SPLM-SPLA should not merely wait to sit at such a conference, but should effectively take part in all the preparatory stages leading to such a conference. We have already done that through meetings of the Joint Liaison Committee that had been set up as a follow-up to the Koka Dam conference, and as far as we are concerned, the so-called National Popular Committee is not only redundant, but irrelevant.

I. And finally, the national call itself furnishes proof that it has been prompted by ulterior motives rather than a genuine desire for peace and dialogue. The need for an immediate 2 week's cease-fire has been obviously overemphasized, although there is already a meeting of minds between SPLM-SPLA and the rest of the political forces, the Ummah Party included, that a cease-fire coupled with the lifting of the state of emergency should be the final step immediately preceding the actual convening of the constitutional conference.

Therefore, the 2 weeks' cease-fire offer contained in the national call was designed by Khartoum to secure from the SPLA a temporary suspension of hostilities so that its remote and besieged garrisons, normally inaccesible during the rainy season, could be replenished in time with a fresh stock of rations and ammunition. The cease-fire offer, which is considered by the government as a gesture of goodwill, is a vital part of its overall strategy for the war. At such a time when Khartoum is forced by the dictates of climate to reduce the tempo of its offensive, Al-Sadiq al-Madhi sees it as important for him to dwell on the theme of peace so that he can pose as a leader who is truly obsessed with national problems, including the war. But actions talk louder than words.

Al-Sadiq's call for a cease-fire is betrayed by his declaration of a state of emergency all over the country. In fact, the state of emergency was declared by Numayri, redeclared by Siwar al-Dhahab, and redeclared by Al-Sadiq. The country is now under a compound, or triple, state of emergency and this makes a mockery of Al-Sadiq's peace initiative.

So much for Mr al-Sadiq's peace initiative, but what must be done? To attain durable peace, it is necessary to reach, through a national constitutional conference, a national democratic consensus on the fundamental problems of Sudan. To that end, the SPLM-SPLA has been very keen to promote a constitutional conference and seek to remove all possible obstacles that may stand on its way.

Accordingly, it advised against holding any elections before a constitutional conference to draw up a broad framework within which all the basic problems could be resolved. We knew that to hold elections prior to a constitutional conference would be a reversal of the correct sequence of events, tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. The major political parties that were anxious to win, with or without the SPLM-SPLA, would not pay heed to our advice, because they could not afford to allow any possible adverse developments that could tamper with their rise to power.

From the day the Koka Dam declaration was signed, the Al-Sadiq government has been systematically working to tear it up. The prime minister unilaterally scrapped the declaration, meanwhile threatening to take punitive legal actions against persons who would continue to pursue contacts with SPLM-SPLA within the context of the Koka Dam declaration. Soon after that, the government started moves calculated to relegate the discussion of serious national issues to bilateral negotiations between it and SPLM-SPLA. And hence the recent so-called initiative reject for the peaceful solution or national call. It is inconceivable that the search for solutions to national problems concerning all the masses of Sudan could be confined to the SPLM-SPLA and the government of the day in Khartoum.

The movement remains committed to a genuine national dialogue among all Sudan's political trends, as evisaged by the Koka Dam declaration. Regardless of any present or future political development, SPLM-SPLA will not be swayed from its resolve to contribute, in every way possible, to the implementation of both the letter and spirit of the Koka Dam declaration so that real dialogue begins. We therefore call on the prime minister and the Sudanese political forces to reactivate the Koka Dam peace process. We urge that the Liaison Committee resume its work and call on the prime minister to stop putting obstacles on the road to peace.

Sousse, Monastir Bombings Investigation Continues

Interior Minister Views Security

LD081046 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Statement by Interior Minister Zine Labedine Ben Ali following his 8 August meeting with President Habib Bourguiba at the Presidential Palace in Skanes — read by announcer]

[Text] I submitted to his excellency the president a report on the general security situation in the country. I informed his excellency in particular about the results of the currently undertaken inquiries concerning the criminal acts staged by elements of the extremist terrorist' network on 2 August aimed at tourist resorts in Sousse and Monastir.

I briefed his excellency the president on the outcome of preliminary investigations of a number of the elements of the network who were arrested shortly after committing this abominable crime against the paramount interests of the homeland. I also informed the supreme combatant of the contents of the working session held yesterday evening in Sousse Province with the administrative and security authorities in the region that was devoted to the assessment of the local security situation following last Saturday's events. The situation was assessed as stable and calm.

The president approved the measures taken by the Interior Ministry in cooperation with the regional authorities and the National Tourism Bureau to ensure the protection of tourists at resorts so that Tunisia remains as its leader wants it — a peaceful country supporting the traditions of openness and hospitality known among all the world's peoples.

The supreme combatant expressed his great satisfaction with the extreme rapidity shown by the security forces in unveiling the base acts committed in some tourist hotels, and in arresting some of those who were involved in these acts — acts opposed by the peaceful Tunisian people who stand against all aspects of violence, extremism, and terrorism.

His excellency the president also praised the vigilance, determination, and self-denial of the internal security forces, and encouraged them to persevere in undertaking their noble mission of resisting all sinful hands and of propagating security and tranquillity in all corners of the country.

The supreme combatant stressed that the recent criminal incidents will only encourage the Tunisian people to rally around its wise leadership and be more determined to bar the way to the preachers of darkness, sedition, and terrorism. The Tunisian people, thanks to their conviction and faith, are endowed with the strength to partake in the efforts aimed at protecting security, safety, the nation's gains, and the stability of the republican system.

Photos of Accused Published

LD091310 Kuwait KUNA in English 1150 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, Aug 9 (KUNA) — Photographs of two Tunisian citizens involved in the recent explosions in the Tunisian cities of Sousse and Monastir, were printed on front pages of local dailies today.

A statement accompanying the photos, identified the accused as Hamadi bin Borawi and Salih bin al-Hadi [names as received]. They are charged with involvement in the explosions that rocked four tourist hotels 150-kilometers from here.

It was reported that 13 people, mostly European tourists, were injured.

The statement issued by the Tunisian Ministry of Interior called on citizens to inform the police of any information that would lead to the whereabouts of both defendents who are still at large.

Five persons were recently arrested by the security authorities for involvement in the incidents.

The Tunisian television yesterday also televised the photographs of the suspects.

Prime Minister Briefs Bourguiba

LD101230 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] At the Presidential Palace in Skanes this morning, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba held a working session with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar and Interior Minister Zine Labedine Ben Ali.

During the session Rachid Sfar submitted a report to the head of state on the progress of government activities.

Zine Labedine Ben Ali informed the supreme combatant that security officials have arrested the elements of the gang that perpetrated the vile criminal acts at tourist spots in Sousse and Monastir. Zine Labedine Ben Ali also informed the supreme combatant that security officials also confiscated material for making explosives which the gang was planning to use in other criminal operations aimed at obstructing the normal progress of the country's activity, disturbing the serenity of people's lives, and threatening their security [words indistinct].

The interior minister stated that public opinion will be informed on radio and television of the identity of those criminals and the other serious criminal acts they intended to perpetrate.

The supreme combatant gave instructions and directives to continue the efforts being made at all levels within the framework of an overall mobilization and full and continuing vigilance to protect the gains of the republican regime. The supreme combatant also voiced his satisfaction with the efforts made by security officialsto uncover the saboteurs and to successfully and quickly arrest them.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Message From Saudi King Fahd

JN101551 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Manama, 10 Aug (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia. The message dealt with the strong fraternal relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Dr Ghazi 'Abd al-Rahman al-Qusaybi conveyed the message here today.

KUWAIT

Iraqi Minister Hands Saddam Husayn Note to Amir

LD111046 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Aug (KUNA) — The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, today received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, but its content has not been disclosed.

The message was handed over by the visiting Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, during his meeting with the amir of Kuwait here today. Nothing has been said about what went on at this meeting, which was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

OMAN

Sultan Meets Iranian President's 'Special Envoy'

LD071619 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA — President Khamene'i's special envoy Shams Ardekani [name as received] met with Oman's head of state Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and submitted to him the president's message in Muscat Thursday. The presidential envoy also outlined dimensions of Mecca carnage omitted by the Saudi police to Sultan Qabus. Also discussed at the meeting were regional developments of the Persian Gulf.

In a separate meeting, Shams Ardekani also conferred with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah on developments of the region as well as the massacre in Mecca where hundreds of pilgrims were martyred and thousands of others wounded by the Saudi police.

PDRY

Paper on 'Hostile Imperialist' Presence in Gulf

EA092005 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Aden, 9 Aug — The newspaper *Araba Tashar Uktubar* [*14 October*] has issued a warning in connection with the hostile imperialist military presence in the waters of the Gulf, pointing out that this presence constitutes a flagrant challenge to the aspirations of the people of the region for security, stability, and peace. In its editorial today, the paper said that this is a mad and hostile situation. The NATO countries, led by the boss of international imperialism and the aggressive alliance, are competing with one another to seize the resources of the region by force of arms.

The paper pointed out in this regard that the ongoing military exercises on several coasts of the region, as well as the preparations for the start of the Egyptian-U.S. military exercises on the 15th of this month, are tangible signs of what is in the mind of the hostile alliance. This alliance is bent on flexing its strong muscles, striking at the will of the peoples of the region and their hopes for security and stability.

The paper said that the PDRY, as it warns against the dangers of the imperialist military presence in our region, wishes to stress that it has sufficient capability to reply to any aggression or provocation affecting its security and stability. It is not isolated from its true and sincere allies, led by the USSR, which has always supported peace, security, and stability in the world.

Concluding its editorial, the paper called on all the peace-loving and freedom-loving countries and peoples of the world to stand against U.S. arrogance in our region, raise their voices in condemnation of these provocations by the United States and those who follow it, and take immediate and practical measures to stop any further buildup of naval forces in our region. They should also demand the withdrawal of U.S. and West European fleets now in the Arabian Gulf. The paper stressed its call to make the waters of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean zones of security and peace, secure against any military presence which threatens the interests of the countries in these strategic regions.

Al-'Attas Receives Message From Saudi King

EA101740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has received a message from his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the king of Saudi Arabia. The message concerned the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, together with other issues of common interest. The message was delivered to him by Brother Muwaffaq 'Abdallah al-Dulayfan, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Aden, when he met with him today.

Politburo Figure Leaves on Visit to USSR

EA071836 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Brother Dr Abdallah al-Khamiri, candidate member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and People's Friendship, left Aden yesterday evening for Moscow on a visit to the USSR that will last a few days. Afterwards, he will pay similar visits to the People's

Republic of Bulgaria, the DPRK, and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in response to invitations he received from the heads of solidarity and friendship committees in those countries. [passage omitted]

USSR Foreign Ministry Official Arrives for Talks

EA071634 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Comrade (Boguslav Rakeshko), deputy director of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, arrived in Aden last night for a visit to our country that will last several days. The Soviet official will hold talks and consultations with Foreign Ministry officials on relations between the two friendly countries and international issues of common interest. He was received at the airport by Brother (Salim Shaif), director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences in the Foreign Ministry; (Ahmad al-Haddad), chairman of the International Organizations Department in the Central Committee Secretariat; and Comrade (Zhivkov), the charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Aden.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Receives Message From Omani Sultan

LD082152 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2033 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 8 Aug (SPA) — The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, has received a message from his brother His Majesty Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellecy Major General 'Ali Majid al-'Umari, the envoy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus, when he was received by his majesty in his office at Al-Salam Palace this evening.

The meeting was attended by his royal highness the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and His Excellency Dr Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Salih Receives Messages From King Fahd, Soviets

JN091310 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a message from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia. The message deals with the latest developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has also received a message from the Soviet leaders dealing with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

USSR Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Sanaa

JN101403 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Dr Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit that will last several days. The Soviet official told SABA he would discuss with fraternal officials of the Foreign Ministry key issues on the agenda of the upcoming UN General Assembly session and Soviet policies aimed at checking the nuclear arms race. He will also discuss with YAR officials other issues of mutual interest, including the Iraq-Iran war and the Mideast situation.

He was welcomed at the airport by Brother Khalid al-'Adisi, head of the International Department of the Foreign Ministry, and an official of the protocol section at the Foreign Ministry.

U.S. 'Warning Missile' Fired at Iranian Aircraft

JN110533 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Sources very close to the U.S. Government stated that a U.S. F-14 fighter fired a warning missile at an Iranian aircraft that was performing hostile maneuvers against a U.S. surveillance plane yesterday. The sources stated that the incident occurred following the start of an operation to escort three Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. The radar of a U.S. Orion-3 [as heard] surveillance aircraft monitored a group of approaching aircraft. This prompted the dispatch of a formation of F-14 aircraft from the U.S. aircraft carrier *Constellation* to the area; these aircraft were also already airborne. The sources stated it was understood that the missile was fired because these targets were threatening the U.S. aircraft.

Ministry Condemns Iran Over Strait of Hormuz

JN101647 Baghdad INA in English 1626 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] United Nations, Aug 10, INA — In a letter distributed to the U.N. Security Council today, Iraq drew the attention to the Iranian regime's disregard for international law by suspending passage in the Strait of Hormuz when the regime conducted its naval maneuvers there.

In a letter from the Iraqi ministry addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq noted that the Strait of Hormuz is regarded as a strait used for international navigation linking two parts of the high seas, so that navigation in it is governed by the transit passage regime or the innocent passage regime of the Geneva Conventions of 1982 and 1958.

The Iraqi letter also pointed out that the Tunb and Forur Islands areas falls under the same provisions governing international straits, whether it be regarded as an independent international strait having the same characteristics as a strait used for international navigation or as an extension of the Strait of Hormuz, since shipping lanes to or from the Strait of Hormuz, as defined by the international maritime organization, pass close to those islands.

The Iranian action, the Iraqi letter stated, "is extremely serious, not only for current international navigation and the interest of the international community but also for the future of that navigation and those interests, because it constitutes a dangerous precedent that violates a fundamental principle of international law and also disrupts the balance on which the 1982 United Nations convention on the Law of the Sea is established."

"At a time when the international community is unanimously calling for compliance with Security Council Resolution 598, the ending of the war and the establishment of security and stability in the region as a whole," the Iraqi letter added, "we find the rulers of Iran going to extremes in their disregard for the principles of international law and the will of the international community and proceeding with their aggression against all."

"The Government of Iraq, while reiterating its adherence to and respect for the principles of international law, strongly condemns this Iranian action and regards it as a dangerous precedent with regard to disrespect for international norms and obligations," the letter stated.

Further on Gulf War Military Operations

Communique No 2,773 Issued

JN101621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,773 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces inflicted the following further losses on the aggressors with their combat activities last night and today:

1. Our brave hawks carried out 110 combat missions in operational sectors against oil installations linked to the enemy'swar effort. Our hawks then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The courageous helicopter gunship knights launched successful combat missions against enemy units and inflicted further losses on enemy scoundrels, equipment, and weapons. Our knights then returned safely and triumphantly to base in God's care.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, the Khomeyniites sustained 10 killed and a number of wounded. An ammunition dump was detonated and a shelter was destroyed.

4. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt effective blows with its weapons against enemy units opposite itself. Our unit destroyed a vehicle, two shovels [preceding word in English], and one 106-mm gun, killing all those manning it.

5. Two scoundrels were killed and a machinegun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 August 1987

Border Areas Denied Captured

JN101714 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1642 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims of combat in the border areas of Shahrazul, Khurmal, and Mirgah Sur, or in Khan Mur [as received], Yalamcheh, and Kheyrsuzan.

In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman asserted that the security situation is completely stable in the northern part of the homeland. He explained that this daily series of lies Iranian officials have told for months refutes itself and falls within the framework of raising the Iranian forces' collapsing morale.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi military spokesman noted the fact that the Iranian Government has found nothing in the past 7 years but lies, is proof that our country has continued to

be steadfast and strong in the face of aggression. It is also proof that Iran is experiencing a state of deterioration in all fields unprecedented in its history.

Downing of Aircraft Denied

JN101815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has rebutted Iranian claims that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down today. In a statement to INA this evening, the military spokesman noted that in accordance with what was announced here, all Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base. The spokesman challenged Iran to produce any evidence of the veracity of its claims and lies.

Iranian Baluchestan Mojahedin Operations Reported

JN071302 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] London, 7 Aug (INA) — Combatants of the Iranian opposition Baluchestan Mojahedin movement carried out a series of military operations in Iran's Baluchestan Province last month, inflicting grave losses in human life and equipment on the Iranian regime's forces.

On 30 July, a force of the movement's combatants blocked the road linking the cities of Zahedan and Khash and confronted a large force of Khomeyni guards who tried to open the road. During a 7-hour battle, the movement's combatants managed to kill or wound a large number of guards and destroy nine vehicles.

A statement issued by the movement said that on 24 July, its combatants confronted a large force of Khomeyni guards near Fannuj in the Vestegan region. This resulted in the death of 22 guards and scores of them being wounded. Residents of the region observed ambulances evacuating the dead and wounded. The statement added that the movement's combatants also carried out a daring operation on the coast of Ghamiq along the Gulf of Oman's coast by blocking the main road and attacking a Khomeyni guard patrol. This operation resulted in the death of eight guards. The movement's combatants then returned safely to base.

Using rockets and light weapons, the movement's armed formations also attacked a number of the Iranian regime's patrols near the cities of Bent, Tang-e Sarkheh, Hajin, and Takyeh Chahar. These attacks resulted in the death or wounding of scores of Khomeyni guards, as well as the destruction of many vehicles. The formations additionally seized various types of weapons.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Condemns Iranian Acts in Mecca

JN091123 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Call for a Decisive Stand"]

[Text] The ruling charlatans in Iran cannot help but tamper with the Muslims' sanctities and distort their values and morals. In this regard, these charlatans perpetrated many harmful acts, some of which reach the level of blasphemy, in violating the injunctions of our true Islamic religion.

Since the suspect wave carried them to power in 1979, these charlatans have sought to use the pilgrimage season to carry out acts of anarchy, terrorism, and blackmail. This is despite the fact that these acts conflict with the spirit of the rites performed during this occasion, which is holy to Muslims.

During all pilgrimage seasons, Saudi authorities have always warned against the possible consequences of this Khomeyniite tampering. More than that, Saudi authorities have displayed extreme patience and forgiveness toward this tampering out of a desire for Muslims to be able to perform the pilgrimage rites in an atmosphere of peace, tranquillity, and stability.

The ruling charlatans in Iran have not only allowed these warnings to pass unheeded, but they have also passed beyond permissible limits in their irrational behavior and deliberately continued their devilish tampering during the pilgrimage season. They have actually viewed this season as an opportunity that must be used to assist them in achieving their evil aims. Consequently, they began to prepare plans for this season long before it was due. The ruling charlatans additionally began to plant among the pilgrims' ranks large numbers of mercenaries entrusted with disseminating anarchy and terrorism.

Thus, what occurred at the holy mosque in Mecca 2 days ago was expected and will be repeated unless a decision is made prohibiting the Iranian regime's mercenaries from entering the holy places. Those who go to the house of God to perform the pilgrimage should not behave in a manner that is alien to Islam. Therefore, they must not be allowed to enter the holy places and exploit the pilgrimage season for purposes of hostility and sabotage. We believe the Islamic world will support the Saudi brothers were they to take such a measure. We also believe the Islamic world is displaying solidarity with the Saudi brothers in supporting measures taken by Saudi authorities to protect pilgrims, preserve the pilgrimage's sanctity, and safeguard the Kingdom's security and stability.

The aggressive Iranian regime, as evidenced by many situations and events, heeds neither the sanctity of the holy places nor respects international laws and norms. To this regime, the most important thing is to reach its evil objectives and express its hatred and rancor in every way possible.

This regime's mercenaries, who have transgressed against the sanctity of the holy mosque in Mecca, the holiest place of all Muslims, find it easy to attack the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran. And this is what actually occurred. These mercenaries stormed the premises of the two embassies and burned their contents despite the immunity and right of protection enjoyed by embassies. This is a matter that confirms this regime's indifference to and belittling of all rules, values, and norms.

In conclusion, this aggression is reminiscent of the crimes perpetrated by this evil regime's mercenaries against the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran and the Iraqi Consulate in Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] in 1979 and 1980, respectively — crimes that served as a prelude to the scheme of aggression against Iraq. This

aggression against Iraq is continuing and Tehran's charlatans do not wish it to stop. Noting these matters, we call for a decisive, deterring stand against this hostile regime in all Arab, Islamic, and international forums. This is because this regime understands nothing but the language of deterrence and firmness.

Government Calls for Arab Committee Meeting
JN071333 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis, 7 Aug (INA) — Iraq has called for a meeting of the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following developments in the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq has asked that this meeting take place 1 day before the Arab League emergency meeting in Kuwait.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League has communicated Iraq's request to the Arab League. He has also asked the League to disseminate this to its member countries.

Informed sources in the Arab League told the INA correspondent in Tunis that the seven-member Arab committee meeting will be devoted to analyzing the state of affairs resulting from the Iranian regime's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The committee will also analyze the results of Iran's violation of the international consensus on ending the conflict.

On another level, responsible sources in the Arab League told the INA correspondent that three Arab countries so far have responded to Tunisia's call for an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers to be held in Kuwait this month. The sources stated that, in addition to the PLO, these countries are Iraq, Jordan, and Kuwait.

The sources added that the positive response by three countries makes the emergency meeting a reality.

The emergency meeting will discuss developments in the Arab Gulf region, the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war, and its negative impact on pan-Arab security.

Foreign Ministry's Beilin Discusses Hill Visit

TA110814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Telephone interview with Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Gid'on Remez — live]]

[Text][Ro'e]Good morning, Dr Yosi Beilin. According to reports so far, we have not heard that Prime Minister Shamir has joined the camp of supporters of the international conference issue. Would it be correct to say that the Foreign Ministry should now examine alternatives to the continuation of the peace process?

[Beilin]No, this stands no chance. We are currently talking about a process with a single practical possibility, that of the international conference, even if we are not enthusiastic about it. The Americans also claim that they are not enthusiastic about the conference, but there is no substitute for it either. It seems to me that Charles Hill came here on this basis.

[Ro'e] Well, what will happen if Charles Hill, after he leaves Israel, comes to the realization that Yitzhaq Shamir believes the international conference is a catastrophe?

[Beilin] Let us not discuss things prematurely. I believe that he is still scheduled to hold talks both at the Foreign Ministry and in the Prime Minister's Office. I surely believe that most of the current activity is in preparation for 15 September, when Shultz is to meet with Shevardnadze. I assume that they will discuss the international conference issue and that it will then again be checked whether the Soviets are able to soften their position and comply with Israel's conditions.

[Remez] Does it seem to you that the U.S. Administration indeed wants and intends, for its own political reasons, to raise the profile of its activity in the Middle East, either through a Shultz visit or any other way, and that to this end, the Americans are trying to create a sort of common platform for the two camps in the Israeli Government?

[Beilin] Possibly. Those of us who thought that U.S. activity might largely decrease by the fall of 1987 and that it would be totally nonexistent by 1988 because the internal election campaign in the United States would not allow them to engage in a high-profile international involvement might have erred. It seems today that the Americans are indeed interested in keeping the political process in the Middle East going. It may be that recent events, such as the conclusion of testimony in the Iran affair, in addition to the fact that the U.S. President will not of course run for another term, allow the Americans some breathing space to reengage themselves, in a more intensive manner, in the issue of peace in our region. Charles Hill's visit may be part of this process.

[Ro'e] In conclusion, Dr Beilin, can we assume that in his meeting with Hill today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will express his adherence to the international conference issue and that he will not raise other alternatives?

[Beilin] Again, we may be making a mistake in phraseology here. Adherence is to the peace process, not to the international conference per se. If the Arab countries tomorrow agree to a direct dialogue, we will be the first to eagerly embrace this. The problem is practical and realistic in nature; there is no other alternative. Therefore, practically speaking, whoever adheres to the peace process today naturally adheres to the international conference as well.

[Remez] If so, will Mr Peres need 2 hours to talk with Mr Hill today — as was the case with Shamir yesterday. I understand that another meeting was even scheduled. Is everything not agreed between them so far?

[Beilin] Other issues may arise during the meeting too. A 2-hour meeting is not a long one for a political discussion on the peace process, even though there is a larger agreement between the two parties that meet today.

Peres on Conference, Economic Aid to Mideast

TA110837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text]Shim'on Peres believes that if agreement is reached among the parties in the Middle East on an international opening for direct negotiations, then the USSR will join the conference regardless of the conditions. Mr Peres made this remark during a conversation with a delegation of U.S. Democratic congressmen. At the same time, he noted that the Soviets still have demands regarding the nature of the conference that are not acceptable to Israel. In reply to his guests' questions on the economic aid needed by the Middle East, the foreign minister said that in his opinion, the international conference should be opened with a discussion of political issues and then move into a discussion of economic issues with the participation of additional countries such as Japan and the FRG. These countries can help in the realization of the economic development plan Peres is proposing for the region.

'Surprise' in Foreign Ministry About RSA 'Appeal'

TA110546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text]South Africa has asked Israel to help it to foil a gathering of apartheid opponents that is slated to take place in the FRG. The political director general of the Foreign Ministry did not, however, respond to the appeal submitted to him on this issue by the South African ambassador. The Foreign Ministry expressed its surprise that South Africa still believes Israel will help it to promote its policy, in view of the decisions Israel has made on its links with that country.

RSA Embassy Denies Report

TA110841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text]The South African Embassy in Israel says that it did not ask for Israel's aid in preventing a convention of apartheid opponents in Europe. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez has

learned from the embassy that the South African Government had asked Israel not to officially participate in the convention. There was no request that Jerusalem help to prevent the convention or to bar private Israeli civilians from participating in it. The convention will take place under the auspices of the EC countries.

Initiatives for Joint PRC Projects 'Frozen'

TA092099 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Israelis are encountering difficulties in developing joint projects with the PRC. They have recently frozen their initiatives due to difficulties which have arisen in the PRC. Our economic affairs correspondent Hayim Platner reports from our Tel Aviv studio:

The Chinese giant had given rise to numerous hopes among Israeli businessmen, as well as others in many Western countries. It now transpires that a considerable number of these hopes have been shattered. At least four groups of Israelis who had wanted to develop joint agricultural projects in the PRC and who had invested quite large sums of money in studying and examining them have frozen their initiatives for the time being, and it is doubtful whether their plans will ever materialize. Due to the refusal of the Chinese to trade openly with Israel, a heavy screen of secrecy envelopes these initiatives. However, we do know that some of them concern the establishment of farms for cultivating and improving the quality of cattle and sheep in the PRC, the building of henhouses, and milking and blending facilities. These initiatives have largely been frozen. Likewise, a company for the application of agricultural technologies, which is connected with official elements in Israel, remains only on paper.

Israeli companies that wanted to market certain consumer products to the Chinese were unable to form lasting commercial links and had to settle for occasional deals only. Most of the ideas to incorporate Israeli elements in planning work in the hotels and tourism branch have also failed to materialize.

We find ourselves in good company in this area. Many entrepreuners from Western countries also find themselves now at a stage of disillusionment with the Chinese market. The Chinese lack foreign currency and are not prepared to invest money in joint projects, thus deterring foreign investors. Another problem is the stiff Chinese bureaucracy: The decisionmaking processes in the PRC are lengthy and Chinese officials occasionally surprise investors with various changes to their investments. This, in short, does not create a good climate for investments in the PRC.

The freezing of Israeli initiatives in the PRC does not mean a total severance of ties in economic and business spheres. According to foreign reports, Israeli plants and companies such as the Dead Sea Works export their products to the PRC, but such deals are not struck directly with Israel; they are carried out through third parties or various middlemen. The Israeli businessmen are relearning a familiar fact: Even after the opening of the Chinese wall, it is still difficult to pass through it to the large Chinese market.

Me'ir Vanunu Explains Paper's Story on Abduction

TA101052 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 87 pp 1, 4

["Exclusive" report from London by Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Excerpt] "Mordekhay had no part in the decision to report on the circumstances of his abduction from Italy. I reached that completely on my own, with the goal of providing additional information on the affair to the British and Italian authorities." This was reported to *Ha'aretz* by Me'ir Vanunu, Mordekhay Vanunu's brother, who gave *The Sunday Times* details — which appeared in yesterday's issue — on how Mossad agents brought his brother to Israel.

He believes that this information "may harm Mordekhay in the trial, but things cannot be worse than they already are."

He refused to report how his brother gave him that information, defying the watchful eyes of his wardens.

He believes that further mysteries related to the abduction will unravel within the next 2 weeks. Although he refused to be more specific, he did intimate that the issue is currently under investigation by the Italians, who have additional information.

Last week, he met in Rome with Dr Domenico Sicca, who was appointed to investigate Vanunu's disclosure in December, which he scribbled on the palm of his hand as he was being driven to have his detention extended. Me'ir told Sicca that two men had manhandled his brother in a cheap apartment in Rome and that "Cindy" had injected him with drugs before manacling him and taking him onto a freighter. He later regained consciousness, but was given another dose of narcotics.

Me'ir claimed that in his first meeting with Judge Sicca 5 months ago, he realized that the latter is doing nothing because of insufficient evidence.

Nor was the judge at all convinced that Vanunu had been abducted on Italian soil. But now he [not further identified] is convinced that the law had indeed been broken. Brother Me'ir also thinks that the British authorities should be interested in the affair, for he maintains that the abduction was planned in Britain. "But they will do nothing, because they have such good ties with Israel."

Me'ir says that his brother should not be judged harshly for falling for "Cindy," that mysterious blonde agent who kidnapped him and injected the drugs into his body. "It is true that he was duped and made mistakes, but he went through so much that one can easily understand him. He was subjected to 3 weeks of examinations and cross-examinations by experts and journalists, but after his disclosures were so ridiculously reported in *The Sunday Times*, he began to have fears.

"Cindy" told him that *The Sunday Times* was not going to publish his story, so he took the bait and agreed to join her in Rome for a while. Me'ir believes that Israeli agents had been following his brother from Australia and knew about his arrival in London the very day that he set foot there. They had been

tipped by the Australians, and the British also knew about this. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv *Davar* in Hebrew on 10 August 1987 on pages 1 and 2 carries a report by Amir Rosenblitt entitled: "The Vanunu Family Denies Any Connection With a Newspaper Report Attributed to Brother Me'ir." The report says: "Asher, Mordekhay Vanunu's brother, claims that the reports on the circumstances of Mordekhay's abduction in the London *Sunday Times* shocked the family. 'We never initiated that report, and since I have recently been in constant touch with my brother Me'ir, who is abroad, I know from conversations I held with him that he was not going to take any such initiative,' the brother said."]

Finance Minister Says Lavi Requires Tax Increase
TA110706 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] If the Cabinet decides to go ahead with the Lavi project, there will be no choice but to raise taxes substantially, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim warned yesterday. In such a case the public will have to forget about economic growth or tax reform, he said.

A decision to go ahead with the project will mean a huge unplanned expenditure and will enlarge the government deficit. Each family will have to contribute about $2,000 through taxation to enable the Israel Aircraft Industries to carry out the project, according to senior sources at the Treasury.

Asked yesterday how he feels about continuing with the Lavi, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres said that he, personally, favours continuation. However, the sum of $150m [million] must first be added to the Defence Ministry's budget. If this is not done, it will be impossible to carry on, he said.

There was widespread disappointment in the Treasury yesterday following the support for the Lavi at Sunday's joint meeting of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs Committee. Treasury officials say politicians are more concerned with short-run considerations, such as the next election than with the economic wellbeing of the country.

The Treasury is to present a four-point proposal on the Lavi to the next Cabinet meeting. The proposal says that the project should be halted immediately. At the same time, the government should take care of the workers and companies that will be affected.

A decision to scrap the Lavi could cause hardship to a large number of sub-contracting plants, with extensive dismissals throughout the civilian labour force.

The Treasury's proposal states that the Defence Ministry should draft a detailed plan for the execution of alternative projects. Since the Defence Ministry budget is not to be cut, the sums freed from the Lavi would help finance these alternative projects.

The Treasury heads argue that even if the Cabinet decides on Sunday to go ahead with the Lavi, it will have to be scrapped in year's time. And, they add, the longer it takes to scrap the project, the more costly the fiasco will turn out.

The U.S. has offered Israel a series of incentives if it scraps the Lavi. These convinced Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his last visit to the U.S. to oppose the project. For example, the Americans reportedly offered Israel F-16s at the same price paid by NATO countries.

Some members of the Knesset Defence and Foreign Affairs Committeewho oppose the Lavi called yesterday for another meeting on the project. They said only 31 out of 51 members of the committee were present at Sunday's meeting.

The Foreign Affairs Committee's chairman, Abba Eban, is at the head of the six MKs [Knesset members] who opposed the Lavi during Sunday's meeting. He said after that meeting that the vote was not a reflection of the seriousness with which the issue should have been dealt with.

According to Treasury officials, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has reportedly told them that Washington will continue to finance the development of the Lavi if the Cabinet decides to go ahead. They add, however, that even with this financing there will be a shortfall in funding the plane. "The Americans did not quite realize what type of plane we were planning," when they began giving support, one official said.

Security Sources Warn of U.S. Reaction to Lavi
TA110749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Israeli security sources say that if it is ultimately decided to continue the Lavi project, U.S. reaction might be sharp and painful. The security sources warn that the United States could respond with a variety of measures to a decision in favor of the Lavi. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports the following:

[Begin recording] After reports were received from the United States on the Pentagon reaction to the vote taken on the Lavi [by the joint session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense and Finance Committees], several senior defense establishment sources told us that Israel should take a serious view of Washington's warnings. The Americans find it difficult to understand how Israel demands and receives $1.8 billion for security and spends $550 million of it for the Israeli Aircraft Industries; namely the Lavi. This is especially true when the defense minister himself says that the Lavi does not fit the definition of the correct expenditure of dollars for security and when the IDF General Staff opposes the plane.

As for what the Americans might do in reaction to a decision on continuing the Lavi project, they have numerous and varied measures at their disposal. One should remember that the entire project depends on the Americans. If they want to they could hold up almost every part of the plane; 60 percent of the plane, it should be recalled, is supposed to be produced in the United

States. They could prevent Israel from having components for the equipment slated for the Lavi, thus blocking the possibility of keeping the plane up to date. Through a bureaucratic decision they could hold up almost every Israeli appeal for procurement. Any military item purchased in Israel goes through a series of approvals, and the Americans might make this series very long and tiring.

Security sources mention periods when we experienced similar situations. At the time it was called reassessment, but many projects were stuck in the drawers of the Pentagon for long months. If the Americans decide they are not prepared to show good will, they might drag their feet on any Israeli request, making life difficult for our representatives in Washington and at the mission in New York and frustrating armament plans. They could, for example, refrain from passing on to Israel new techniques they develop for their F-15's, thus making the most important plane of Israel's Air Force obsolete within a few years. They could halt the preparation of contacts for Israel's participation in the Star Wars program or, alternatively, could slow down the entire strategic cooperation process. All of this has security and financial implications that have often been discussed. The worst, however, according to the sources with whom we spoke, is that the Americans might get the impression that Israel cannot take a hint; therefore,measures should be taken against it. Difficulties may then arise on other issues for which Israel is dependent on U.S. goodwill, including pressure for a decrease in aid. As early as 2 months the Americans may, as a first step, decrease the portion of the aid money Israel can spend in Israel by $250 million, these sources say. They also mention that the size of the military aid, which today stands at $1.8 billion annually, does not appear in any clause of the U.S. Constitution. [end recording]

Cabinet Extends Electric Company's Franchise

TA090809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] The Jerusalem Electric Company's franchise will be extended by 10 years, but it will not be permitted to supply electricity to the Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, or IDF camps in the territories. This was the decision adopted by the Cabinet today following a proposal by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal.

Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that 15 ministers supported the vote. Minister Pat's suggestion that the company's franchise be revoked altogether was rejected.

Company Rejects Cabinet Vote

TA100721 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Elaine Fletcher and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Officials of the Arab-owned Jerusalem District Electricity Company [JDEC] yesterday rejected the Cabinet's decision to take away its concession to supply power to the Jewish neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The decision would cut the company's concessions by more than half.

But Hanna al-Nasir, board chairman of the company took a wait-and-see approach to whether a compromise package, including more financial aid, could be worked out through negotiations with Israeli Cabinet ministers.

Meanwhile, Jewish leaders in East Jerusalem and the West Bank welcomed the prospect that the government move would mean better service because their neighbourhoods would be hooked up to the Israel ELectric Corporation [IEC] grid, rather than to the JDEC.

Al-Nasir said that he hoped to meet with Energy Minister Moshe Shahal today. In statements which were more moderate than those by some other JDEC board members, Al-Nasir seemed to indicate that his negotiations with Shahal would revolve around obtaining more financial aid for the troubled company rather than fighting the cutting in half of its concession area.

"I also reject the decision to reduce part of our concessions," Al-Nasir said. "But before rejecting the entire decision, it would be best to look at it and see where we are going to stand in the future."

The Cabinet adopted its decision by an overwhelming vote of 15 ministers against four.

The 70-year-old concession granted to the Arab corporation by the Ottoman authorities in 1917 will thus clearly not be extended in its present form, when it expires this December.

Today the Arab corporation generates only about five per cent of the current which it sells, buying 95 per cent from the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC). The renewed limited concession will require it to purchase all of its current from the IEC, and to keep its five per cent capacity solely as a reserve for emergencies and power failures in the Israel national grid.

Voting against the proposal were four ministers: Science and Development Minister Gid'on Pat; Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon; Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhaq Peretz (of SHAS) [Torah Observing Sephardim]; and Minister-Without-Portfolio Yosef Shapira (NRP) [National Religious Party].

Sharon said after the vote: "Historically speaking, this is one of the gravest decisions any Israeli Government has ever taken."

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said the Arab corporation's NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 33m. in debts would be paid off, in lieu of its transfer of its plant, installations and network, to the IEC. The Arab company would have to dismiss about half of its staff and pay them severance pay, he noted, for which end the Energy Minister would have to raise some $4m. At present the Arab corporation was extremely overstaffed, he noted.

The director-general of the IEC, Yitzhaq Hofi, noted that the Arab corporation has 100,000 consumers of whom 30 per cent were Jewish, but they consumed between 50-60 per cent of the current supplied by the JDEC.

The remaining 70 per cent were Arabs who were spread through 11 towns and 100 villages, Hofi said. The local authorities buy the current "in bulk" at the municipal boundary, as it were, and were responsible for its distribution to their residents, he said.

Hofi said the last thing the IEC wanted was to operate in areas of the West Bank where the Arab population was opposed to cooperating with its employees, in installation, repairs, meter-reading and bill collection. This would entail dangers and unrest, he said. With the Arab corporation acting as a sort of subcontractor or retailer, the situation would be safer and preferable, he told the ministers.

Pat said the energy minister was suggesting surrendering to extortion.

Housing Minister David Levi said the Shahal proposal was an acceptable compromise. Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek told the Cabinet that the largest employer of Arab labour in the territories and in Jerusalem could not be liquidated overnight. If the concession were not extended in some form, he warned, there would be serious unrest.

'Ali Hammuda, spokesman for the JDEC's employees committee described the government decision to cut the concession as illegal. He said Israel has no right to alter the company's 1917 concession which expires this December, since it is an occupying power.

The JDEC's employees will hold a sit-in strike at the company's East Jerusalem offices today, while the company's board is expected to meet to deliberate on a formal response to the government's decision.

Demonstrations in East Jerusalem Over Mecca Events

TA101227 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem — A crowd of worshippers at the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque held a public demonstration following the Friday prayers yesterday. The U.S. and Israeli flags were burned and slogans were chanted against the Saudi regime in protest against the mistreatment of Muslim pilgrims by the Saudi police in holy Mecca.

The demonstrators, who numbered several hundred, shouted slogans condemning the United States and the Saudi and Jordanian regimes and strongly denounced the incidents in holy Mecca. They also condemned the aggressive U.S. policy in the region. A large number of residents joined this demonstration. The demonstrators also declared their support for action against the United States and arrogant international powers and called on the oppressed to unify their ranks in order to avenge the blood of Muslims.

6 Soldiers Wounded in Lebanon; Helicopter Attack

TA101707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Six IDF soldiers were slightly wounded this afternoon from mortar shells directed at the northern part of the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. The fire was returned by our soldiers. This has been reported by the IDF spokesman.

An IDF assault helicopter this afternoon hit a suspicious vehicle in southern Lebanon. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

Northern Commander on Katyusha Rocket Attacks

TA110537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, says that the firing of katyushas yesterday and the day before yesterday does not, at this stage, signify a substantive change on the northern border, which is usually quiet. Major General Peled adds that despite the many preventive efforts by the security forces in southern Lebanon, it is impossible to prevent the firing of katyushas. During his talks with residents on the northern border yesterday, he said that their courageous and well-considered stand allows the IDF greater maneuvering room in making decisions.

Lubrani Questioned on Attacks

TA110949 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan — live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you, Uri Lubrani. In the wake of two katyusha attacks in 24 hours — like those we have just witnessed — 5 years ago we would have launched a Peace for Galilee operation, would we not?

[Lubrani] I am not sure.

[Friedman] Do you see a big difference between what happened then and what has happened now?

[Lubrani] I view what has happened now as part of the ongoing struggle we are facing. It is not the first time, nor do I see it as being the last, unfortunately. There is a concentration of hostile forces in the north, and there is an eruption like this from time to time. We must view this as an ongoing problem and not as a single event that requires unusual reactions.

[Friedman] You do not see yesterday's incidents as an escalation then, do you?

[Lubrani] It is difficult for me to say. I do not know. We should wait and see what happens. I hope not.

[Dayan] To the firing of the katyushas one should of course add the wounding of six IDF soldiers and the ensuing attack by Israeli helicopters. In other words, the katyushas were not a single incident.

[Lubrani] No, I do not think so. I think that this is part of an action and reaction process. After all, incidents do take place in the north, some of which do not even make headlines anymore because they have become routine. This is an action-packed arena; it is sometimes stormy and sometimes more quiet, but hardly a day goes by without something happening there. There is a Shi'ite majority in the security zone. Some of the forces facing us are radical Shi'ite ones, whether they belong in Hizballah or Amal's extremist camp. We have to face up to them.

[Friedman] How do you do that then, through war or cooperation?

[Lubrani] We should do both. We should seek those who are willing to cooperate with us and we must also strike at those who strike at us.

[Dayan] Incidentally, do you share the assessment that the Shi'ites returned from Mecca, from their pilgrimage, loaded with Saudi money, which will enable them to hire katyusha-launching mercenaries?

[Lubrani, laughing] I am not sure that this is a true description of the situation. I do not think that it has anything to do with Mecca. This is what I think: We know there is a struggle between the radicals and moderates there, and sometimes, in order to prove ability and avant-gardism, they also shoot at us.

[Friedman] The security zone is anything but a shield against the firing of katyushas. The katyushas were fired from outside the zone, right?

[Lubrani] We knew this when the government made a decision [on redeployment] in January 1985. This was not...

[Friedman, interrupting] Voices are occasionally heard on expanding the security zone a little perhaps so that it can be an absolute shield indeed against the firing of rockets of the larger diameter — of 122-mm or more.

[Lubrani] Such an opinion exists. I belong to the group of people who do not think any change should be made now.

[Dayan] Mr Lubrani, you sound like a person who views events in the security zone and in southern Lebanon in general as a graph, not with upward or downward lines here and there, but with an unchanging one.

[Lubrani] This may not be the case always, but in the foreseeable future I am afraid this is indeed so. I do not see any chance for a significant change because I do not see any chance for a significant change in Lebanon. Lebanon is an ongoing problem. There is no central government there. Everyone does what he pleases. There are forces there that are hostile to each other and to us. As long as there is nobody in Lebanon who can impose law and order, we will always be facing evil from that direction.

[Friedman] Look, reports publicized yesterday talked about damaged houses, shattered windows, and torn electric wires and that only miraculously there were no casualties. In other words, it is luck that makes the difference between escalation and a very great escalation, correct?

[Lubrani] True. Luck is important sometimes. However, we should learn to live with this and hope that life along the northern border can proceed normally, more or less. As long as this is the case, I do not think that we will have to change our deployment significantly there today.

IDF 9 Aug Raid Aimed at Amal Headquarters

TA101756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] A senior military source says that the first volley of katyushas was fired this morning by members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. The second volley was apparently fired by the Amal organization in retaliation for yesterday's attack by IDF helicopters on an Amal building in the village of Al-Sultaniyah.

The military source told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the building hit yesterday was an Amal headquarters and that it was targeted because Amal members have cooperated with the Hizballah organization.

Scholar Hammud Discusses Recent Mecca Incident
NC101725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Scholars Grouping, has revealed what he witnessed during the incident in Mecca on Friday afternoon, 3 Dhu al-Hijjah [31 July]. During a news conference at his house in Sidon at noon today, Scholar Hammud said that his motive to explain what he saw is not his love for any particular faction or commitment to another, but originates from his belief that disclosing the truth is the quickest way to thwart sedition.

Shaykh Hammud emphasized that an agreement had been reached with the Saudi authorities on the demonstration. He further stressed that the Saudi Interior Ministry under secretary had met with Shaykh Karrubi, who headed the Iranian pilgrimage mission, and that agreement had been reached on the details of the demonstration. He noted that similar demonstrations had taken place in Mecca in past years without any trouble or clamor.

Al-Huss Discusses Remedy for 'Ailing' Pound
NC101411 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has made public the ideas he proposed to the late former President Camille Sham'un on 13 July to remedy the slump in the value of the Lebanese pound. He cautioned that we have only two choices: Either we achieve a political reconciliation that will be conducive to rescuing the economy, or we propose a formula for an economic accord that will provide us with the means for cooperation and steadfastness until the circumstances and prospects for a political reconciliation mature.

At a news conference held in his home at 1300 today, Dr Al-Huss said that the Lebanese pound is ailing but still very much alive. He then referred to an integrated program which must be pursued until it is completely achieved, emphasizing that an immediate and multifaceted decision is required. Among other things, this decision should include the establishment of a fund to boost the Lebanese pound by converting 20 percent of the gold [reserves] into cash. This would act as an interim step to enable Lebanese society and the national currency to survive and stabilize. It would also ease the citizens' dire living straits until conditions were proper for bringing about the desired reconciliation.

Birri Proposes Economic Meeting, Backs Southerners
NC101424 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Justice Minister attorney Nabih Birri has proposed that a government body or a ministerial council convene at Government House to examine ways to reach an economic accord. He cautioned, however, that there is little hope [for such an accord] as long as no progress is made toward political reconciliation in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, in a statement this afternoon, Minister Birri lauded the steadfastness of the town of Al-Sultaniyah. He affirmed that the townspeople will continue their struggle until the southerners establish their authority over all their territory and soil and until the aggressors are defeated. He called upon international organizations, particularly the Red Cross, to travel to the town and see the grave damage inflicted upon it as a result of the bestial Israeli air raids.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Areas in South; Casualties
NC101545 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1534 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] In a raid launched against Al-Qa'qa'iyah in the Al-Nabatiyah District at 1650 today, four Israeli helicopters fired rockets and dropped bombs. We have been informed that the bombardment ended at 1815; that is, 18 minutes ago. It has been reported that citizen 'Ali Mahmud Mahdi was martyred and citizens Muhammad Mahdi and 'Ali 'Ayyash were wounded. Fires broke out in the olive groves southeast of the town as a result of the raid.

Israeli Position in 'Alman 'Accurately' Shelled
NC101525 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The occupation forces' position in 'Alman came under violent, concentrated artillery shelling at 1510 today. It has been reported that the shells hit their targets accurately, causing fires to rage in the position. The occupation forces responded by immediately shelling the area around Al-Ghanduriyah and the course of the Al-Litani River. The shelling was accompanied by intensive enemy helicopter flights over the vicinity, which continued until 1630.

Syrian Officer, Soldier Wounded in Tripoli
NC110859 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 845 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports received from Tripoli, gunmen opened fire this morning at a Syrian officer from the Al-'Ali family and a soldier who was accompanying him. The officer was seriously wounded. He was taken to the field hospital at the international fair grounds together with the soldier, who was also injured.

Druze, Shi'ites, Christians Reportedly Join SLA
NC101654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] According to security reports, 300 persons, 60 percent of whom are Druze and 40 percent of whom are Shi'ites and Christians, have joined the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. The reports add that the Druze members, who come from Hasbayya and Rashayya, have deserted the popular army which Junblatt had established.

Najib Returns to Kabul From Visit to USSR

LD101309 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, 10 Aug (*Bakhtar*) — Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, returned to Kabul today after a short visit to the USSR.

He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by comrade members and candidate members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee: Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Nur Ahmad Nur, Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Sulayman La'eq, Muhammad Rafi', 'Abdol Wakil, Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, Zohur Razemjo, Mahmud Barialay, Mir Sahib Karwal, Najmuddin Kawiani, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand.

The charge d'affairs from the USSR Embassy in Kabul was also among those who welcomed Comrade Najib at Kabul International Airport.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Helicopter, Destroy Tanks

LD091636 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 9, IRNA — Afghan Mujahidin shot down a helicopter and destroyed seven tanks and armoured personnel carriers of the joint Soviet-Afghan forces during their operations in the eastern provinces of Kapisa and Ghazni, killing and wounding scores of enemy troops.

A military convoy of the joint forces ran into a mine-field planted by Mujahidin in 'Shesh-Gav' region, Ghazni Province, on 23 June in which five tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and all their crew members were killed or wounded.

Some 15 joint troops were killed or wounded and two tanks were smashed by Mujahidin when another military convoy hit a mine-field on the Kabul-Ghazni highway on 26 June.

The Mujahidin also killed and wounded eight enemy soldiers and blew up a munitions depot during their missile attack on a military airfield in Ghazni Province on the same day.

A helicopter of the joint forces, attempting to carry out logistical operations over mountainous military outposts in Kapisa Province, was shot down by Mujahidin last week and its seven crew members including the pilot were killed.

Rebels Seek To Elect 'Jihad Revolutionary Council'

BK101515 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 10 (AFP) — A meeting of 1,200 Afghan rebel commanders last month called for a Jihad revolutionary council to be elected to determine the future of Afghanistan, sources close to the rebels said Monday.

The sources, quoting a 20-point resolution which they said was [word indistinct] meeting, said the council would "determine the future of the Afghan nation, the smooth running of the country and the military harmony of the interior."

The resolution, which arrived Monday in the Pakistani city of Quetta, was passed at a meeting in the western Afghan province of Ghowr between July 12 and 22, the sources said.

The council would be elected within the next six months by provincial officials and authorised representatives from various war fronts, the sources said, adding that rebels from all Islamic groups could express their opinions.

The resolution urged the unification of groups both inside and outside Afghanistan. "The future destiny of the country belongs to the families of martyrs and the Mujahidin who are at the heart of the jihad (holy war)," it said.

This indicates a desire to limit the role of separate groups based in Pakistan and in Iran and of former Afghan King Zahir Shah now living in Rome, the sources said.

Reliable sources said the Ghor meeting mainly brought together guerrillas belonging to the large Jamiyat-e Eslami group and was not attended by several important commanders from eastern Afghanistan who are in other groups.

President Ershad Reshuffles Cabinet 10 Aug
BK101600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] President Ershad has appointed a 22-member new cabinet with Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury as prime minister. Seven ministers of state and seven deputy ministers have also been appointed. The president administered the oath of office to the new ministers at a simple ceremony at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. Earlier in the afternoon, the president dissolved his former cabinet.

Portfolios have been allocated to the new ministers. The prime minister will hold the charge of the Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones; Deputy Prime Minister M.A. Matin will hold the charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs; while Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, the Ministry of Industries.

The other ministers with their portfolios are:

Shamshul Haq — relief and rehabilitation;

M.A. Munim — commerce;

Shah Moazzam Hussain — local government, rural development, and cooperatives;

Anisul Islam Mahmud — irrigation, water development, and flood control;

Sirajul Hussain Khan — land;

Anwar Hussain — energy and mineral resources;

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury — foreign affairs;

Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury — health and family planning;

Moidul Islam — ports, shipping, and inland water transportation;

Mirza Ruhul Amin — fisheries and livestock;

M. A. Mannan — religious affairs;

Sunil Gupta — textiles;

Anwar Zahid — labor and manpower;

A.K. Khandokar — planning;

M. Syeduzzaman — finance;

Mahbubur Rahman — education;

Zafar Imam — jute;

M. Matiur Rahman — communications; and

Mahbubuzzaman — agriculture.

The ministers of state with their portfolios are:

Sheikh Shahidul Islam — youth and sports;

M.A. Sattar — civil aviation and tourism;

Sardar Amjad Hussain — food;

B.K. Dawan — local government, rural development, and cooperatives;

Mustafa Jamal Haider — labor and manpower;

Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury — energy and mineral resources; and

Professor Abdus Salam — agriculture.

The deputy ministers and their portfolios are:

S.M. Fakhrul Islam — finance;

Wajid Ali Khan Punny — foreign affairs;

H.M.A. Ghaffar — commerce;

Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury — communications;

Kazi Firoze Rashid — ports, shipping, inland water transportation;

Mohammad Najibul Haq Chunnu — land;

Humayun Kabir — health and family planning.

M. Shamshul Haq and M.A. Mannan could not take their oath of office as they are now out of the country. After the swearing-in ceremony, the president had a meeting with the newly-appointed ministers in the cabinet room of Banga Bhavan. Those who have been dropped from the cabinet are: Kazi Zafar Ahmed, major general, retired; Mahmudul Hassan; Rabiya Bhuiya; Shafiqul Ghani; and Abdur Rashid, engineer; Misbahuddin Ahmed; Zeyauddin Ahmed; Ghulam Sarwar; and Nurul Amin Khan Pathan.

Ershad Says No 'Political Crisis' in Nation
BK091601 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] President Ershad has again called upon the people to create a new Bangladesh by eliminating poverty, hunger, and illiteracy. He made the call while addressing an extended meeting of the Jatiya Party at the Engineers Institute in Dhaka this afternoon. The president spoke of the various epoch-making reforms undertaken by his government during the last few years in various sectors of national life. The last 6 years are a shining record and example of achievements and success of the present government. The president said our religion and language have been given due place in the national life. We have a distinct cultural heritage and history. The people of the country made

their homeland independent through a war of independence. This independence is not a gift of anybody.

About the current floods in the country, the president said the government is taking necessary steps to minimize the suffering of the affected people. He also reiterated his government's determination to meet any situation arising out of the floods.

The president said there is no political crisis in the country as there is a democratically elected president, parliament, and government. A few processions and demonstrations by some thousands of people cannot bring about the fall of a government enjoying the mandate of the people. The president called upon the people to keep national interests above all individual and petty interests. The president, who is the chairman of the Jatiya Party, called upon the members to make the organization strong and ideal for doing greater good to the nation. The realization of the party ideals will give a new sense of direction to the nation, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury underlined the need for building up the Jatiya Party as a disciplined and well-organized party. He said the economic reforms and political stability given by the present government brought about an era of better days for the people. He said we must keep up the progress achieved during the last few years. Earlier, the party secretary and local government and rural development minister, Shah Moazzam Hussain, gave a brief account of the achievements of the present government.

All members of the Jatiya Party Presidium, ministers, members of parliament belonging to the party, presidents and general secretaries of all organizational district committees and front organization of the party attended the meeting.

Ershad Supports Saudi King on Mecca Incidents

BK110624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] President Ershad has expressed his deep anguish at the news of the grievous incident in front of the holy Masjid al-Haram [Great Mosque in Mecca] on the 31st of last month in which 402 pilgrims lost their lives and hundreds of others received injuries.

In reply to a message from Shah Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the president said he has no language to give adequate expression to the extent of Bangladesh's dismay that an incident of this nature and dimension could have happened at the very place where Muslims go to make submission and seek forgiveness from almighty Allah. President Ershad said this dark and ugly incident has left a blemish and [words indistinct] those responsible for disturbance [words indistinct] ordained by the holy Koran for performance of hajj by all Muslims. He said as Khadim al-Haramayn al-Sharifayn [custodian of Islamic holy places in Mecca and Al-Madinah], the Saudi king is entrusted with the responsibility of preserving the sanctity, dignity, and tranquillity of the Haram Sharif. The president extended his full support to King Fahd in this sacred task. The president also prayed to Allah for the salvation of the departed souls and also the Islamic ummah [community] for wisdom, compassion, and [word indistinct] so that the glorious [word indistinct] of Islam are not tarnished by such incidents.

BNP Chairwoman Vows To Remove Ershad Government

BK091139 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 31 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Mrs Khaleda Zia, leader of the seven-party alliance and chairwoman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] says that the present "autocratic" government has spilled a lot of the people's blood and that we must force it to resign at all costs. She made this statement in an address to a mammoth public meeting on Thursday [30 July] afternoon at Shapla square in Mateejhil. Defying heavy rain, Mrs Zia told those attending the meeting that during the 54-hour strike the loyal government forces had attacked people indiscriminately and killed many of them. The government thus tried to quell the movement through barbarous means. She said that the head of the government had received a "hostile welcome" when he visited a bank after the 54-hour strike. He should have resigned on that very day, Mrs Zia added.

The leader of the seven-party alliance asserted that this government has imprisoned hundreds and thousands of people and is shooting innocent citizens without cause. She pointed out that weapons should not have been purchased to kill the people. The leader of the seven-party alliance alleged that the government is not providing any kind of help or assistance to those affected by the floods. The suffering people are not receiving government aid, and they are dying of starvation where they have been marooned. On the other hand, the head of the government is flying around in helicopters and carrying on his propaganda over radio and television. This government is not making any effort to save the lives of innocent people.

Addressing foreign organizations which are providing aid, Mrs Khaleda Zia said: "You should not send any more aid material to this government. If you want to give aid to the people, then please do it through the Red Cross". [passage omitted]

The BNP chairwoman affirmed: We are already part of the joint movement [against the government] and will remain in it. We are marching ahead with the program adopted by the movement. The people themselves will pinpoint those elements which are trying to sabotage it. Even if no one remains with the movement, the BNP will alone carry out its program and bring about the fall of this government.

Declaring the half-day program for the Dhaka strike on Sunday, 2 August, Mrs Zia said that because of the floods this strike will only be observed in Dhaka. She added that a full-scale program for the movement will be announced only after 'Id [Muslim festival]. In her speech, the BNP chairwoman demanded the immediate release of those arrested during the 54-hour strike, the withdrawal of "trumped-up charges" against bank employees, and the end of all kinds of pressures and atrocities. She said: "We will be on the streets along with others in the movement to topple the government. This government has been rejected by the people and will be put on trial after it is removed from power." [passage omitted]

Further on Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

Loan To Develop Economy

OW101317 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 10 KYODO -- Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said Monday Japan will extend a 68,477 million yen loan to India to help develop the Indian economy. The aid program was announced after Kuranari held a meeting with Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs, after arriving in New Delhi early Monday on the first leg of his official tour of three southwest Asian countries. Two other countries are Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Kuranari said Japan's largest-ever loan aid provided for India will represent 63,842 million yen for fiscal 1987 and 4,635 million yen for stimulating two ongoing projects. Kuranari said India will use the loan aid for nine projects, including a power station which is scheduled to be constructed in southern India in the near future.

Meanwhile, Kuranari told Singh Japan will promote a political dialogue with the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to promote peace and stability in Asia. The SAARC member countries are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Butan and the Maldives. Kuranari said Japan and the SAARC countries will promote exchanges to strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation. Kuranari informed Singh about Japan's proposed involvement in personal exchanges with the SAARC countries, which includes a series of symposiums and a dispatch of Japanese intellectuals to those countries.

Singh and Kuranari also discussed relations between India and Sri Lanka, in particular the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries which recently put an end to a racial war on the Jaffna peninsula in Sri Lanka.

Kuranari urged India to participate in a nuclear nonproliferation treaty enacted 1970, but Singh resisted Kuranari's request, saying the treaty is disciminatory.

Kuranari later met Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and was asked to rectify India's trade imbalance with Japan, currently in Japan's favor, and transfer more high technology to India.

Meets With Tiwari, Natwar Singh

BK101637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The visiting Japanese foreign minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari, held discussions on bilateral and international issues with the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today. Mr Kuranari announced that Japan will provide soft loan asistance to India equivalent to about 593 crore rupees during the current year. The whole gamut of economic cooperation between the two countries was discussed at the meeting he had with the finance minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari. The two countries also signed an agreement for grant to import sports and physical education equipment by India.

At his meeting with Mr Natwar Singh, the two leaders discussed the situation in Sri Lanka, the U.S. arms supply to Pakistan, India-China relations, and bilateral matters. Mr Natwar Singh explained to Mr Kuranari various measures envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on bringing stability to the region.

Appreciating the role India played, the Japanese foreign minister congratulated the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for signing the agreement. Mr Natwar Singh drew the attention of Mr Kuranari to Pakistan's weapons program, including the reported smuggling of nuclear components into the country.

On China, Mr Natwar Singh said India wants good-neighborly relations with Beijing and these sentiments have been reciprocated. The Japanese foreign minister referred to the Japan month to be celebrated in India in October and the Indian Fair in Tokyo.

In the afternoon, the Japanese foreign minister called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapathi Bhavan [president's house]. Later, Mr Kuranari called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Natwar Singh Hosts Dinner

BK110458 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpt] India has reiterated its faith in the process of dialogue and negotiations with its neighbors in resolving problems with them. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Japanese foreign minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari, in New Delhi last night, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said that however intractable the problem or discouraging the situation, we have relentlessly stuck to a peaceful path without any aggressive intent.

Referring to the India-Sri Lanka agreement on the ethnic issue, Mr Natwar Singh said it has helped restore peace in a friendly neighboring country and is working smoothly.

About Indo-Japanese relations, the minister said India highly values the assistance that Japan had provided in important areas and also the increased contribution announced by Japan at the recent Aid India Consortium meeting. Mr Natwar Singh expressed confidence that the economic cooperation between India and Japan will serve as a useful bridge for promoting contacts among the peoples of the two countries.

In his reply, Mr Kuranari said the economic relation between the two countries in recent years have been remarkably strengthened by India's liberal economic policy. In the last 10 years, trade between India and Japan had increased threefold and economic collaboration five times.

Mr Kuranari expressed the hope that the Nonaligned Movement will continue to play an active role for peace and stability in Asia and the world. [passage omitted]

Gandhi Comments on Sri Lanka Accord, Drought

BK090536 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0237 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is an eye-opener to the world as it has shown that nonaligned nations are capable of solving their problems themselves. Addressing a meeting of Congress-I workers in Bombay last night, he said the agreement has not only created an atmosphere of confidence among the nonaligned nations, but has also heralded an era of peace and development in Southeast Asia. It also serves as a warning to the forces trying to disrupt peace in the region.

Mr Gandhi said that a specter of drought looms large this year throughout the country barring a few states. Describing it as the worst in the century, he said the government has already geared its machinery to create relief work till next monsoon. He announced that the center has set apart 3,000 crore rupees this year to eradicate poverty. About the drive against economic offenders and black money holders, Mr Gandhi said it will be carried out with more vigor.

Bangladesh Border Violation Charge Rejected

BK110909 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] India has rejected the Bangladesh Government's allegation that the Border Security Force had intruded into Bangladesh territory twice last June. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, informed the Rajya Sabha today that Bangladesh has been told that such unsubstantiated allegations vitiate the atmosphere of friendly relations between the two countries. Answering a supplementary, the minister said India is in touch with Bangladesh to sort out the issue of the influx of Chakma refugees.

U.S. Aid Sought in Extradition of Bofors Arms Agent

BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The government will be seeking U.S. assistance to bring back to India Mr Win Chadha, the agent of the Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors. Mr Chadha and his son are wanted in connection with the investigations by the enforcement directorate under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act. The passports of the Chadhas were revoked in public interest. Indian diplomatic missions in all countries have been alerted about the Chadhas being wanted in the country.

'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab; Dead Terrorist Named

BK100322 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, five persons including two women were killed in separate terrorist incidents since yesterday. In Amritsar District, one person was shot dead by terrorists in Baba Bakala last night. In another incident in the district a farmer was gunned down by terrorists in the village of Jabal. According to a delayed report, in Ropar District three members of a family including two women were killed by terrorists with sharp-edged weapons in Anandpur Saheb on Saturday [8 August] night.

The Amritsar police have identified the terrorist killed near Amritsar bus stand on Saturday as Roop Singh. He was responsible for a number of murders including the gunning down of four bus passengers in Gurdaspur District on the 1st of this month.

The state governor, Mr S.S. Ray, yesterday visited Jagdeo Kalan in Amritsar District where 13 persons were killed by terrorists last Friday [7 August]. He appealed to the people to fight terrorism by forming village peace committees. Later, Mr Ray had an hour-long meeting with senior officials in Amritsar.

Reports Unclear on U.S. Navy Planting Mine

LD102130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] According to a report by the correspondent of the Central News Unit, a Panamanian ship carrying Iranian oil hit a mine on Sunday [as heard] afternoon near the port of Al-Fujayrah in the UAE. No report is as yet available about the extent of the damage to the ship.

The report adds that it is not yet clear whether this mine was planted directly by the U.S. Navy or if the regional agents of the United States were responsible for this act.

The Central News Unit correspondent adds that it seems that the incident, which occured near the port of Al-Fujayrah, is not unrelated to the military policies in the Persian Gulf.

Mining Called 'U.S. Plot'

LD110758 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — A spokesman for Iran's Ministry of Oil said here Tuesday that the hitting of a mine by *Texaco Caribbean* Monday was a U.S. plot for suggesting insecure conditions at the Persian Gulf.

The Panamanian oil super tanker carrying 275,000 tons of Iranian oil for Europe hit a mine outside the Strait of Hormuz in Al-Fujayrah waters on Monday and was partly damaged.

Iraq Bombs Industrial Targets; Workers Killed

LD100847 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 10, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi fighter bombers bombed two industrial units in Tabriz (E. Azarbayjan Province), and Gachsaran (Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh Province) Monday morning.

Several workers were martyred and wounded and damage was inflicted on both targets.

Iraqi Sites Shelled in Retaliation

LD101713 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 10, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire heavily shelled military-economic centers of Iraq's strategic port of Umm Qasr as well as Al-Badr and Al-Amayah platforms in retaliation for Iraqi attack on Iranian industrial units today in which a group of civilians were martyred and wounded.

Substantial losses were inflicted on enemy eco-military sites as well as tactical headquarters in southern Iraq during the shelling when a group of Iraqi troops were also killed and wounded.

Vast part of Umm Qasr port caught fire as a result of the shelling smoke of which billowed skywards for several hours.

Radio Commentary on Bombings

LD101211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you have heard in the news, the Iraqi regime, after several days of preparation, embarked on atrocities today and bombed several industrial units in cities of the Eastern Azarbayjan and Khuzestan Provinces. The Iraqi regime has recently been making baseless claims that the Islamic Republic of Iran has resumed shelling Iraqi cities. In response, the War Information Headquarters issued a statement 2 days ago. It referred to the Iraqi claims as downright lies and an excuse for the Iraqi regime to resume its atrocities of attacking cities. In its statement, the War Information Headquarters added that this is a propaganda ploy to renew the bombing of Iranian cities. It has asked international forums to pay attention to the Iraqi regime's trick.

As predicted, the Iraqi regime has began its new round of conspiracies and atrocities by bombing several industrial units in the Eastern Azarbayjan and Khuzestan Provinces. At present, the Iraqi regime is caught in a crushing deadlock. The related operations of the fighters of Islam on the battlefronts, the continuation of guerrilla actions inside Iraqi territory, and, most important of all, the failure of the Iraqi regime to create strife in the Persian Gulf have forced this regime to break this deadlock by resuming its atrocities and bombing Iran's industrial centers.

It seems that the pressure exerted by Iraq's supporters -- who asked that it not attack oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, thus preventing it from creating strife there -- has been followed by their encouragement to attack Iran's industrial centers. This conspiracy, plotted precisely within the framework of the joint conspiracy of the United States, Britain, and France to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to reach a compromise on the war, is understandable.

Under circumstances in which the U.S. Government has increased pressure on the UN Security Council to impose further economic and military sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the attack launched by the Iraqi planes on our country's industrial centers is a complementary move in order to add to this pressure. However, the Iraqi regime and its supporters should know through experience that this conspiracy will not be able to change the fate of the war. The fate of the war will be the collapse of Iraq's corrupt Ba'th Party. Moreover, despite the wishes of global arrogance, the fighters of Islam are determined to realize this matter.

Persian Gulf To Be Transformed Into 'Killing Field'

LD101430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1240 GMT 10 Aug 87

[From the "Messages From the Fronts" program]

[Text] In the extremely hot and very humid Persian Gulf weather, the valiant Islamic fighters have completed the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers in strong fashion. This indicates the total

readiness of the Islamic Republic's Navy and heralds the death of the aggressors in the Persian Gulf.

One of the maneuvers' objectives included the combat readiness of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] naval forces and its units against threats posed by foreign powers. This was accomplished by using the IRGC's facilities and experiences.

The IRGC fighters demonstrated that they have achieved the highest level of skills, that the inner bonds existing between the Navy and the IRGC will cause the enemies of Islam many sleepless nights, and that the Persian Gulf will truly be transformed into a killing field for the aggressors.

Another objective of the maneuvers is political in nature. Mohsen Rezai'e, the IRGC commander, says: One of the essential political objectives of the maneuvers is for the United States, other foreign powers, and the Persian Gulf littoral states to be made aware that military provocations in the Persian Gulf can be foiled by the crushing and mighty power of the valiant Islamic fighters. Having assessed our potential, we feel that we can preservethe security of the Persian Gulf and retaliate against the regional instigatations of foreign powers.

Another way in which the Islamic Republic can confront possible adventurism in the Persian Gulf is to equip our naval units with land-to-sea and surface-to-air missiles, all of which are ready to be put into operation against any possible attacks and movements by our enemies.

The Corps commander referred to another peculiarity of the maneuver: the reliance of the fighters on divine power, as well as on new, impressive initiatives, and the deployment of special tactics unparalleled in the world. For security reasons we must avoid referring to these tactics. However, when the time is right and if our enemies continue their adventurism, the aggressors will see them in action.

What impressed both our enemies and our friends during thesemaneuvers was the power of creativity and initiative shown by the mighty Islamic forces who, relying on everlasting divine strength,have manufactured and produced certain necessary types of equipment and weapons. This was at a time when, despite all its imaginary claims concerning the detection of offensive operations by the combatants and the clearing of mines, the United States has been appealing to anyone it could think of.

The lowest ebb of U.S. denigration and humiliation was reached over the *Bridgeton* tanker incident, in which those posing as superpowers showed their fundamental weakness by failing to cope with the simplest kind of naval war — mining.

In conclusion, we shall once again refer to remarks by the IRGC commander: If the United States is under the impression that this is simply a political maneuver, then it should come over to see how we will deal with it.

Our martyrdom-seeking volunteer forces will teach the United States a lesson that will keep it from raising its head anywhere in the world.

IRGC Minister Says U.S. 'Astounded' by Forces

LD110534 Tehran IRNA in English 0528 GMT 11 Aug 87

["IRGC Minister Says Americans Are Turning Tail at Persian Gulf" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust said here Monday that the combat capacity of Iran's Muslim forces in the Persian Gulf has so much astounded the U.S. that the superpower frigates sneak out of the Persian Gulf at night, escorting a Kuwaiti re-flagged ship.

The IRGC minister said if the U.S. should venture to do anything in the region then Iran would teach her a lesson to be recorded for all time in history.

Rafiqdust, addressing a large group of kins of Muslim combatants, said that Iran will crush any aggression upon its borders, relying on a nationwide army of faithful people and on mighty weapons and on hundreds of thousands of martyrdom-seeking basijis (paramilitary troops). Thousands of IRGC members and basijis participated in a three-day war games code-named 'Shahadat (Martyrdom) Maneuvers' in the Persian Gulf, which ended Friday.

Rafiqdust also reflected on the July 31 carnage of hundreds of Muslims in Mecca by Saudi police and vowed that Iran would not give way until the blood of hajj pilgrims are revenged.

DIE WELT Interviews Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Gulf

DW101021 Bonn DIE WELT in German 10 Aug 87 p 7

[Interview with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani by correspondent Detlev Ahlers; date and place not given]

[Text] *Die Welt*: In July 1984 you said that peace could be achieved in the Gulf war through diplomatic efforts. Has the UN Security Council resolution had any effect on these efforts?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: I said it then and I say it now – and your foreign minister has mentioned it twice (in his talks with the Iranian foreign minister – *Die Welt* Editorial Board): Once the aggressor in this war has been named, we can can discuss punishing him.

Die Welt: Iran does not want to make peace with the present Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, and the Ba'th Party. What sort of leadership do you think Baghdad should have in order to achieve peace?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Iraqi people must decide on their leadership. However, Saddam Husayn and his Ba'th Party have committed the crime of war and they must be punished for it — we cannot negotiate with them. Everything else is a matter for the Iraqi people.

Die Welt: How about reparation demands?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: That must be handled by a commission of experts.

Die Welt: You said a few months ago that you yourself have a son in the war. Therefore, can you understand why there are people in Iran who, despite the conditions imposed by your leadership, want to achieve peace quickly?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We, too, want this war to come to an end. However, without punishing the aggressor it would be unjust and we would not be prepared to make peace.

Die Welt: Conquering Karbala' at least, where Imam Husayn is buried, is a defined target of the Iranian offensive. Does Iran want to conquer Karbala' and, if so, what kind of a government would be set up there?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: These are symbolic slogans, not real targets. Imam Husayn is a model for us. However, we do not want to set up a government in Karbala'. We believe that Karbala' belongs to all Muslims, so a Muslim must rule there who is selected by the Iraqi people.

Die Welt: Under what conditions could there be a clash with the U.S. Navy in the Gulf? If such a confrontation took place, would the battlefield be confined to the Gulf?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We do not want to and we will not make the first step aimed at war with the United States. This applies to all parts of the world. However, if the United States takes the first step, then we will be forced to take countermeasures.

Die Welt: You said in one of your Friday sermons that one drop of blood shed by the Americans in the Gulf would touch off "streams of blood everywhere in the world." Does that mean that in the event of conflict with the United States, Islamic volunteers would act against the United States in other parts of the world?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: I meant that if the Americans started a war, it would not be confined to the current Gulf war area. The United States would have to use other countries for that war against us, thus involving other states. In addition, there are millions of Muslims throughout the world. Clearly, they would not remain inactive. They would become active and this would lead to great bloodshed.

Die Welt: Why do you threaten to close the Strait of Hormuz although Iran is the only Gulf state exporting oil through the Strait?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Naturally, we want the Strait of Hormuz to remain open. Our position is very simple: If we cannot use the Persian Gulf for oil exports, we will close it. Why should we not close it? We say either the Strait will be open for all or it will be open for no one.

Die Welt: You represent Imam Khomeyni in the highest war council. Which of the great military leaders in history do you admire?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: There are many good soldiers in the current war. I do not want to pick out any individual. However, as a whole, war is not good. We do not want war. Moreover, I am a priest; I never studied war previously.

Die Welt: Do your soldiers fight for Iran or for Islam?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: First for Islam. Iran is a base of Islam; therefore, they also fight for Iran.

Die Welt: Iran is one of the great refugee countries of the world with about 2 million Afghans. How does Iran support the Afghan resistance?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Afghan people are an oppressed people on whom a Marxist regime has been forced. The Soviets have killed many people there and destroyed many villages and towns. We do whatever we can for those people.

Die Welt: By supporting military resistance?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: As I said, we do what we can.

Die Welt: One has the impression that, although you have used clear language against the Soviets, despite the struggle in your neighbor country, your statements are always more anti-American than anti-Soviet. Is this a wrong impression?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: In our country and in many Islamic countries, the United States is responsible for crimes. We are not keeping quiet about the Soviet Union either. And we are paying a high price for it.

Die Welt: How is this?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Russians tell us frankly that because we support the Afghans, they give weapons to Iraq. If we stopped helping Afghanistan, the Russians would be prepared to cut off their arms supplies to Iraq. However, we remain loyal to our principles. The United States is responsible for Israel's existence in the region and for many things that have happened in the Persian Gulf countries. Iraq is also a U.S. base. The United States supports the South African regime.

Die Welt: When you say U.S. support for Iraq in the Gulf war, do you mean the current action in support of Kuwaiti oil exports, or something else?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Before the war began, the United States had a hand in it. The helpers of the United States in the region all support the Iraqis. Iraq receives support via their ports and land routes and through information it obtains through those countries.

Die Welt: Iran has a high birth rate and unemployment. The infrastructure must be developed. What is the economic program for the postwar period?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We have worked out a 20-year program. We will implement it after the war.

Die Welt: There is a strong group in the Majlis wanting to limit agriculture for domestic use only and to trade with foreign countries as little as possible.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We were successful in that respect, although we cannot cultivate the soil in five provinces at present. Despite a population increase of 15 million since the revolution and despite the numbers of Afghan refugees we shelter, we are less dependent on foreign countries now than when the shah ruled.

Die Welt: Is Iran basically wary about trade relations with other countries?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: No country can survive without foreign trade. Naturally, however, we have our standards.

Die Welt: What are they?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Naturally, we prefer trading with countries that deal with us justly and with whom we have friendly relations. For example, there must be a trade balance between two countries. No partner must try to make us dependent or pursue colonial aims.

Die Welt: The Islamic revolution reaches beyond your borders, trying to change the lives of as many Muslims as possible. How do you assess the acceptance of the Islamic revolution's ideas in other parts of the Islamic world?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: You are a reporter. I believe that journalists are better informed about it than we are.

Die Welt: I do not think that we are "better" informed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: It is a fact that the Islamic way is now an alternative to socialism and capitalism. The Muslims who fought before us did not have such a model. Now such a way is possible and can be implemented.

The success we had in overthrowing the former Iranian regime, which was dependent on capitalism, has been resounding. For the Third World countries — the have-nots — our resistance to communism, imperialism, and capitalism is reason for hope. The Muslims in Lebanon could throw out the Americans, the French, and the Israelis all at once...

Die Welt: Did you have also Kuwait in mind in giving that answer? A good part of the population there has Iranian ancestry. Could that be one of the next countries where the Islamic revolution could get a foothold?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Iranian ancestry does not play a role. We believe that Muslims living in a country must become active themselves. By the way, Afghanistan is more ripe for it than Kuwait. Also Lebanon.

Die Welt: There are Islamic groups who quote Imam Khomeyni in their revolutionary zeal. One of those groups has taken two German hostages. To what extent can those who lay claim to the Islamic revolution be influenced and guided by the Islamic revolution? Could you please explain?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We have influence, and to a certain degree those people listen to us.

Die Welt: To what degree?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: I cannot give you a percentage, but we are not without influence in some cases.

Die Welt: Does somebody in Tehran know the whereabouts of Cordes and Schmidt?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: In Lebanon. I think we have found a line to them.

Die Welt: Many Kurds are proud of their contribution to the revolution but embittered about their treatment afterwards. Did you make mistakes there?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: No, the mistakes were on the Kurdish side. Right after the revolution they tried to set up Kurdistan. We acted against it. Some Kurds in Iraq are fighting against us. However, the Kurdish people in Iran are now on our side. They take part in the elections. We have several Kurdish deputies in the Majlis. They have the same rights and vote that I do. They get the same pay that I do.

Die Welt: For some months there have been joint actions by the Iranian Army with the Kurds in Iraq. Did you make any promises to the Kurds about the post-war period?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We have no decision to make about what the Iraqi people will do in the future.

Die Welt: Is it possible that after the conclusion of peace there will be no Iraq in its present form? How about Kurdistan?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We are for Iraq's full sovereignty.

Die Welt: If the Kurdish part of Iraq wanted to break away, would you support it or not?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: No. We would be against it. Iraq should not be divided.

Die Welt: There is talk abroad about resistance groups in Iran and demonstrations against the current government, as well as of an anti-Khomeyni movement among the military in 1986. Are such movements supported by foreign countries?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: In the past year there has been no such incident in the army. Only individuals could be involved. Naturally, we have antagonists — royalists, communists, and other groups. Most of them are being supported by foreign countries. The CIA supports and finances them.

Die Welt: The CIA will certainly not support a communist resistance here.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Our communists also depend on the West. So do the Monafeqin (the unfaithful, the Mojahedin — *Die Welt* Editorial Board). They have leftist slogans but very rightist goals, like the monarchists. Mainly foreign governments support them. Iranians in exile need help themselves.

Die Welt: What governments?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The United States, England, France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq — they all give money, radios, propaganda, and so on. Turkey permits groups to enter and leave the country. The Soviet Union supports the Tudeh Party, which also cooperates with the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

Die Welt: Your difficulties with France mainly concern its arms supplies to Iraq. Was the embassy affair just a pretext for a break in relations?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We are dissatisfied with French policy. French policy is hostile to us. However, the embassy issue was started by the French, not us.

Die Welt: In the sealed-off French Embassy in Tehran, there is a woman with a 7-month old baby. Would it not be time to show — outside politics — the fabled Persian generosity toward her?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: I agree. She should apply to the Foreign Ministry. She can leave.

Die Welt: Some years ago you visited an Islamic cultural institute in China, an institute you assessed most positively. Why can there be no German cultural institute in Iran anymore?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: You had one until recently.

Die Welt: Yes, but not anymore.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: This is because you greatly support our counterrevolutionaries in your country. We participated in a book fair in Frankfurt and you permitted the counterrevolutionaries to demolish our book stand, although you know very well that they are terrorists who publicly admit to being terrorists. However, you support them; you give them political asylum. They are listened to in your parliament. All the parties speak with them.

Die Welt: If embassies are occupied in Iran although you have tried to avoid it, it can also be that book stands are attacked in Germany without the government approving it.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: It gives the terrorists asylum.

Die Welt: There are Mojahedin actions in Iran, but I have heard of no such actions in Germany.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: This cannot be separated. They pursue terrorist propaganda in your country. They get money, and that money is turned into bombs.

Die Welt: Money from the German state?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: I do not say that the German Government gives them money, but they can make money in your country.

Die Welt: Eight years is a long time, but one gets the impression that Iran is still in the middle of a fermentation process.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The events confronting us show the people that the struggle is not yet over. The people still feel threatened from outside. That keeps them vigilant.

Die Welt: There are many young people in revolutionary groups and committees who have gained much authority through the revolution. Is there any misuse of power?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: It has decreased. The disorder during the revolution has stopped. Now the men are orderly and act according to law.

Die Welt: Innocently executed Muslims go directly to heaven. Did this happen to some of your compatriots during the revolution?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: That is a matter of justice. Every judical system makes mistakes. We always try to employ jurists who make few mistakes.

Die Welt: During the revolution there were emergency courts — I do not know whether they still exist — passing death sentences within minutes with no possibility of appeal.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: There are no such emergency courts anymore. The courts cannot pass a death sentence alone; the process is longer now. A death sentence must go through three procedures and must be approved by the Ghom in the Justice Council composed of five ayatollahs.

Die Welt: Is there any torture in Iranian prisons?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: There may have been hardships in interrogations in the early phase of the revolution. There is no torture in our Islamic Republic. It is prohibited by our Constitution. Anyone using torture during an interrogation is subject to punishment himself.

Die Welt: In Islamic punishment, there are regulations that contradict the recent UN human rights convention. Was a decision made in Iran that when in doubt, follow the Islamic, not the UN regulations?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Our law is based on Islam. However, we try not to deviate from international conventions.

Die Welt: How about stoning?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Imposing Islamic punishment depends on the judge; justice is independent. Tasteless judges impose such punishment. We always advise them not to do it, to respect international law, and to impose punishments according to UN laws. That means no stoning.

Die Welt: Islamic law is valid, but it should not be used if it contradicts human rights.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: If there are two options, we will follow the one in line with international law. This is normally the case.

Die Welt: What relationship does the Islamic revolution have to Iran's pre-Islamic history? What relationship do you have to Cyrus the Great, or Darius II?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Not a trace of them remains in the country.

Die Welt: And Shah 'Abbas the Great? Although he was a shah?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: He was a Muslim. Otherwise, no moral effects anymore.

Die Welt: How about Mossadeq?

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: His nationalization of the oil industry and the fight against the court was well done. However, his mistake was not getting along with the Islamic priests. Therefore, he lost.

Majlis Speaker Meets Spanish, Indian Ambassadors

NC110630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] The Spanish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday. During this meeting, the Spanish ambassador spoke about the friendly relations between Spain and Iran. He said: Spain has been under the influence of Islam, hence our common culture. He added: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, many Western countries participated in the siege of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, Spain did not. We are impartial in the war. We support full security in the Persian Gulf and believe that conflicts in this region should not be exacerbated.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani then responded: Had the other Western countries preserved their independence, we would not be witnessing these disturbing incidents in the Persian Gulf. In the past, we had relations with big Western countries, but at present we have no full or low-level relations with the United States, Britain, or France because of their incorrect stands. Naturally, we should instead have relations with countries like yours.

He added: As for the Persian Gulf, we believe that if foreign powers do not abuse the situation here, then relative security will be ensured, as has been the case during the past 8 years. We seriously believe that the Persian Gulf should be safe for the world. Although Iraq thinks that by creating tension in the Persian Gulf and by big power intervention it can be saved, we have seen that this has failed. Now the United States wants to follow in the footsteps of Iraq.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stated: We see the hands of Britain and France very clearly in the plots that are being hatched in the Persian Gulf region. With the incident that they created in Mecca, they burned their bridges with the countries of the southern Persian Gulf area. There is no going back. Our conclusion is that the United States wants to suggest that the war has spread to countries in the southern Persian Gulf and that the Persian Gulf area is in a crisis situation.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsajani added: The Western bloc countries should be assured that all the United States can do is make the Persian Gulf unsafe for the West. It cannot benefit here. Of course, this will create problems for us and for other countries in the region, and we expect sensible countries to prevent adventurism of this kind.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded by referring to the imposed war. He said: We are not making unreasonable demands. Once the instigator of the war, the violator of international norms, is punished, the war issue will be resolved.

The Indian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran also met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday afternoon. At this meeting, the continuation of friendly relations between the two countries was emphasized.

Envoy on Explusion of Berlin Consulate Officials

LD101741 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Bonn, Aug. 10, IRNA — All Iranian diplomats at the Islamic Republic Consulate in West Berlin, which is in the U.S. zone, are to leave the city, said Iranian Ambassador to West Germany Mohammad Javad Salari at a press conference here today. Salari said following talks with West German officials, it was decided to shift Iranian diplomats and employees to Hamburg, noting that the U.S. has even spread its disputes with Iran to West German territory.

Since U.S. show of power utterly failed in the Persian Gulf, Washington is trying to spread its dispute to West Germany and pit mankind against each other. "U.S. plotted the blood bath in Mecca in order to justify its meddling policies," Salari added.

Expulsion of the Iranian diplomats from West Berlin revealed that the Allied Powers (U.S., Britain, France) do not want to cooperate with West Germany. Iran's consulate in the city was not a key place for the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, but was more important for the Bonn government, the ambassador said.

Western powers are displeased with Tehran-Bonn good relations, and are trying to embarrass West Germany in a bid to destroy the two countries' ties, he said, stressing that they will not succeed.

Tehran Comments on Expulsion

LD102153 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Political commentary entitled: "The Expulsion of Iranian Diplomats From West Berlin"]

[Text] According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, the American, French, as well as British officials in West Berlin,

called on the Iranian officials stationed in the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in that city to leave the said city as soon as possible.

This measure, which is taking place under the pretext of the part of the plan in strengthening security measures in West Berlin, has attracted the attention of the political social circles in the region. According to the political observers, this measure takes place on the continuation of the political and propaganda pressure which has been exerted after a round of negotiations among the American, British, as well as French officials.

About 3 months back, the embassies war began from London when the British Government, in pursuing the policies of America, expelled all the diplomatic and nondiplomatic members of the Iranian Embassy from Britain and the level of diplomatic relations were reduced to a single member at the interest section of each side.

Then came the turn of France so that its [words indistinct] in violation of all the international conventions (?it seized) the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris and beat up an Iranian diplomat in Geneva, the European headquarters of the United Nations. Ultimately, diplomatic relations between Tehran and Paris were severed and the Embassy of Iran continued to remain under the seige of the security police and now with the release of the news on the joint decision of America, Britain, and France in connection with the expulsion of the members of the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran from West Berlin, (?the situation) has become very clear cut to those who may have had any doubts about orchestration of the recent moves with the American ruling clique.

Cooperation of the allies of America in West European countries is indicative of this reality that the world-devouring America, beside intending to involve its allies in the expansionist policies in the Persian Gulf, also makes attempts on the propaganda scenes, too, to prevent the dynamism of the diplomatic moves of Iran and pressurize the Iranian diplomats on baseless excuses.

According to the political analysts, the [words indistinct] of American Western allies with the Islamic Republic of Iran is something clear and natural. [Words indistinct] the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran has threatened all the tyrannical interests of these countries.

The issue worth mentioning and worth pondering for the analysts in the European [words indistinct] is the adherence of British and French Governments to the dictated policies of Washington. These countries, which claim to be independent and nonaffiliated (?in their) political relations, have shown so far that they are a [words indistinct] to the imperialist (?terrorists) of America in their [words indistinct] and in their propaganda campaigns, too, they are incapable of adopting an independent stance.

Certainly in the diplomatic and propaganda warfare which has been started by the Western countries against Iran, there will exist no victorious side and certainly the negative impacts of this psychological war will in fact (?tax) the initiators.

Embassy in Rome Denies Drug Trafficking Reports

LD072226 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2030 GMT 7 Aug 87

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Rome today categorically denied information concerning the dispatch of drugs to the Rome diplomatic seat via diplomatic bags to be sold later in Europe. According to a communique issued by the embassy, the information provided by the Mojahedin organization is totally false.

Commenting on the news about drug trafficking, the Farnesina [Italian Foreign Ministry] has said that no reports on this subject have been received. According to the Foreign Ministry, the very rank of the Iranian personalities mentioned seems to suggest that news on alleged drug trafficking via the Iranian Embassy in Rome is totally unreliable.

More Bodies Arrive From Saudi Arabia 11 Aug

LD110617 Tehran IRNA in English 0616 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — The pure bodies of 49 more martyrs of the Mecca massacre were transferred to Tehran this morning and moved to the coroner's office, after a special ceremony at the airport. Ministers of culture and higher education, commerce, economy and energy were present at the airport.

Another group of 160 martyrs are scheduled to be transferred to Tehran within the next two days.

Some of the bodies cannot be identified due to the severe wounds they have sustained.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Counterattack Defeated

LD091118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] The Joint Command of the three services of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced that at 0330 today the Zionist enemy attempted to recapture Bulfat Heights, which had been captured by the Islamic fighters during "Nasr-7." This futile move was soundly defeated thanks to the vigilance of the brave men of the IRGC's Ground Forces and to the intense artillery fire, which forced enemy troops to vacate the locality, leaving many dead and injured behind.

In repelling the counterattack, two battalions of the enemy's 75th Infantry Brigade were smashed. An ammunition dump, various vehicles, and many weapons, including mortar launchers and light and semi-heavy weapons, were destoyed.

The same report also states that an enemy aircraft was hit and downed over the "Nasr-7" operational region. Its pilot was killed.

According to this report from the Joint Command of the IRGC's three services, Islamic fighters attacked ambush positions to the west of Fish Lake inside the Shalamcheh operational region last night. After negotiating minefields, barbed wire, and booby

traps, and advancing deep inside to enemy positions, they captured these positions, knocking out a battalion belonging to the III Iraqi Army Corps.

Communique No 2,923
LD091608 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA — Five civilians were martyred and 10 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed areas around the border town of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, at noon Saturday, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 2923rd Joint Staff communique said that Muslim forces of Iran suppressed a group of Iraqi forces attempting to infiltrate their positions in an operational theater in Maymak, western fronts, early Saturday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy troops and forcing the others to flee.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 17 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday, but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

An Iranian patrol convoy clashed with Iraqi forces in a northwestern front early Saturday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and capturing a number of others.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy vehicle and several gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Mehran, western fronts, yesterday was shelled and forced to flee by Iranian Muslim combatants.

Iranian combatants opened heavy artillery fire on Iraqi positions in other parts of the battlefields Saturday, inflicting heavy casualties on enemy troops and setting ablaze three munitions dumps and several gun emplacements of theirs.

Movement of Iraqi motorized and armoured units in Mehran and Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts, was checked by Iranian artillery fire Saturday, the communique concluded.

48 Iraqi Casualties Noted
LD091815 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 9, IRNA — At least 48 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants throughout the western fronts particularly in Sumar, Maymak and Qasr-e Shirin on Saturday and Sunday. Three Iraqi vehicles and one munitions dump were also destroyed and two enemy tanks, two multiple rocket launchers, one logistical bridge and ten bunkers were damaged.

In another report from Ahvaz, Iran's Muslim forces shelled Iraqi troop concentration sites on the western bank of the Arvand River yesterday, killing 30 enemy soldiers and setting fire to four vehicles and ten gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Kurdish Towns
LD091909 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 9 Aug 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 9, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed Tiliyan, Hawr Sarrakiyah, and Brigara [placename as received] villages in Shuan [placename as received] and Al-'Amadiyah Region (N. Iraq) last week martyring 10 civilians, reports reaching here from inside Iraq said here today.

The reports said that nine villagers were martyred in Tiliyan and one was martyred in Saraki and another villager was wounded in Brigara villages as a result of the bombardment. Several houses and a mosque were also ruined in the attack.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi soldier who surrendered himself to Muslim forces in a southern front recently, told IRNA in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, that Iranian forces in cooperation with Iraqi Kurds have cut the hand of the Baghdad regime from the northern Kurdish areas. "Iraq's Kurdistan has turned into a horrible nightmare for Iraqi Army," he said.

He also condemned Iraqi chemical bombardments of Iranian and Iraqi people terming them as a "clear sign of Ba'thist defeat against joint Iranian-Kurdish combatants. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Iraqi Forces Repulsed in 'Fath-9'
LD101130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent from the "Fath-9" operational theater]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Five counterattacks by the Saddamist forces have been repulsed in the "Fath-9" operational theater. As a result, 250 more Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and two battalions of the regrouped forces of Iraq's Presidential Guard were routed.

Following the victorious "Fath-9" operations, the helpless commanders of the Ba'th army, in an attempt to boost the morale of their forces in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, deployed four reinforced battalions of the regrouped units of Saddam's Presidential Guard and a group of the hireling mercenaries hoping to recapture the liberated regions. However, thanks to the unprecedented bravery and resistance of the mighty warriors of Islam and the Iraqi Kurdish forces, the Zionist enemy moves were soundly crushed and the Iraqi forces were forced to retreat to their previous trenches.

During these clashes, hundreds more Ba'thist troops were either killed of wounded; several ammunition depots, 20 vehicles, 4 tanks, and dozens of light and heavy weapons were destroyed; and 5 more Iraqi troops were taken prisoner by the fighters of

Islam. This brings the total number of Iraqi dead and wounded since the start of the victorious "Fath-9" operations to over 600. The number of POW's taken behind the battlefronts has reached 40. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,924

LD101551 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA — An Iraqi 'Mirage' jet fighter was hit by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Khuzestan border areas at 05:17 GMT Monday and crashed around Bubiyan Island, said a military communique here today.

The 2924th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian Muslim forces in a series of infiltration operations stormed Iraqi positions around some heights in Maymak region Saturday night and Sunday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops. They also cleared the areas of mines planted by the enemy before returning safely to bases.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire inflicted irreparable losses on Iraqi infantry and artillery units throughout the western fronts particularly in Maymak operational theater yesterday.

In the southern and northwestern fronts, exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued Sunday with the former holding the upper hand and the latter sustaining heavy casualties and losses in each front.

Iranian Gendarmerie Forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Sunday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying the pylon and several observation posts of theirs, the communique concluded.

'Mopping Up' Operations in Maymak

LD111059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] In continuation of the battle of the forces of Islam against the Zionist enemy in the Maymak and Sumar operational sector, and in the course of mopping-up operations on the heights near Maymak, 120 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded in the last 24 hours. Also during these operations, three tanks, two personnel carriers, one ammunition depot, and one katyusha of the Saddamists were destroyed.

7 Dead, 45 Injured in Mardan Bombings

BK110948 Hong Kong AFP in English
0943 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11 (AFP) — Three bombs rocked the town of Mardan in northwest Pakistan Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring 45, correspondents in the area said, quoting police.

Two blasts occurred at the bus station and the third near a sports stadium in Mardan, 65 kilometers from Peshawar. The deaths and injuries occurred at the bus station, the correspondents said. Buses and nearby buildings were also damaged. The explosions occurred at midday (0700 GMT).

Pakistan has seen a number of attacks in towns across the country in recent months. Press reports and officials here have linked the attacks to the conflict in Afghanistan and have said they suspect that the Afgahn secret service is behind them.

Mardan is the base of the leader of a Pakistan opposition party generally seen as pro-Kabul, observers said.

King Fahd Sends Message to President on Mecca

LD101723 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Islamabad, 10 Aug (SPA) — His Excellency the Pakistani president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has received a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, concerning the subversive actions carried out by some agents of the Iranian regime in the vicinity of the Grand Mosque in holy Mecca on Friday, 31 July.

The message was delivered by As'ad 'Uthman al-Tayyar, charge d'affaires of the Saudi Embassy in Pakistan, during his meeting today in Islamabad with Ambassador Amir 'Uthman, the chief of protocol at the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister Affirms Belief in Political Freedom

BK101143 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated the government's firm belief in the supremacy of law and the freedom of political association and activities. He was addressing a largely attended meeting of Pakistan Muslim League [words indistinct] in Lahore this afternoon.

The prime minister said the measures taken by his government to restore the fundamental rights of the people and independence of judiciary aims at ensuring a just socioeconomic order in the country. Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the present elected government is determined to lay the foundation of a system in which the civil and human rights of the people could never be violated. He said all political parties in the country are free to propagate their policies and programs among the people.

Earlier, inaugurating a 2-day national cooperatives convention, the prime minister said (?the aim of) his 5-point program is to establish such an economic system in the country which would eliminate unemployment and ensure an overall national development. He said the cooperatives movement would play a very important role in achieving this objective. He said the cooperatives movement is strictly in accordance with Islamic teachings.

Benazir Bhutto Urges Peaceful Nuclear Use

BK080930 Hong Kong AFP in English
0844 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Karachi, Pakistan, Aug 8 (AFP) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has advocated the peaceful use of nuclear power in the country to produce energy and improve the economic well-being of the people.

In a statement released after her return Friday from London, the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) said the Pakistani Government should act to remove alleged confusion and uncertainty abroad about the country's nuclear programme.

Referring to a proposed suspension of U.S. aid to Pakistan Miss Bhutto said: "On the one hand we take American aid with pride and on the other we do things that create apprehensions and doubts".

The U.S. House of Representatives this week passed a non-binding resolution to cut off military aid to Pakistan unless it proved it was not producing weapons-grade nuclear material nor attempting to acquire nuclear technology.

Miss Bhutto said: "We should use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, for generating energy and economic well-being. If the programme is genuinely peaceful, the rulers should say so".

Both President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo have repeatedly stated that Pakistan's nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes and the country has no intention of producing nuclear weapons.

Islamabad has responded to Indian allegations that it is manufacturing a nuclear weapon by offering mutual inspection of nuclear sites, but New Delhi has rejected this. [passage omitted]

Paper Expresses Dismay at Suspension of U.S. Aid

BK101225 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Aug 87 p 4

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Non-Issue"]

[Text] The U.S. under secretary of state for political affiars, Mr. Michael Armacost, visited Pakistan at a time when tempers were running high over the aid suspension by a U.S. Congressional Subcommittee. Mr. Armacost has now concluded his visit and left without making any specific public statement on the vital issue,confining himself to the same cliche-ridden expression that he had frank and useful discussions with President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo on the nuclear issue. However, he could not hide his acceptance of the Congressional Subcommittee's decision by saying that U.S. policy and laws on the procurement of nuclear technology are unequivocal and must be upheld.

Just when Mr. Armacost was having his "useful" talks with the top people in Islamabad, the Senate was discussing the decision of the Congressional Subcommittee and fiery speeches were being made from all sides of the House condemning it. None of the members was in the mood of submitting to U.S. pressure or "blackmail", as some put it. At the same time, the foreign minister assured the Senators that Pakistan would never compromise the country's interest and sovereignty on any issue. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan debunked the allegation that Pakistan was in any way involved in the so-called attempt by a Pakistani-Canadian to export something from the U.S. which is not permitted as it could be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. He said that the case had only been made an excuse to suspend the post-87 aid for 105 days although Pakistan has repeatedly made it clear that it has no intention of making nuclear weapons. In proof of our good intentions, the foreign minister recounted all the initiatives that Pakistan has taken more than once to have a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. Whatever has been said in the Senate during the last few days reflects the mood of the entire nation which has been adequately spelled out by its elected representatives. Everyone in the country is dismayed and anguished at the unwarranted and hasty decision of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Relations. The entire nation stands as one today to face this challenge and safeguard its national interests. Nothing can ever deter us from pursuing our nuclear programme -- the needs of the country cannot be left unfulfilled. It is time those antagonistic to Pakistan's peaceful nuclear research saw reason and stopped causing hurdles in the path of its progress.

Indian Envoy Meets President; More Tamils Freed
BK101609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J. N. Dixit, called on the president, Mr Jayewardene, in Colombo this evening and apprised him of the progress made in handing over of arms by the Tamil groups under the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Mr Dixit later told UNI [*United News of India*] that he also sought Mr Jayewardene's views regarding the proposed interim administration for the Northern and Eastern Provinces. They discussed details regarding a timeframe on introduction of legislation for implementing the clauses of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the process of handing over arms by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam continues. A large number of arms and ammunition were handed over by the Tamil Tigers in (Pulori), Palaly, and Trincomalee yesterday. The second batch of detenues was released today under the agreement. The released detenues were from Trincomalee and Batticaloa.

Eastern Areas Paralyzed by LTTE-Called Strike
BK090916 Hong Kong AFP in English
0858 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug 9 (AFP) — A general strike to protest the alleged killings of two Tamil separatists paralysed eastern Sri Lanka Sunday, witnesses said. The strike was called by the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has accused government forces of killing two rebels last Tuesday, days after the signing of a peace pact to end the island's separatist conflict.

The districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa were brought to a standstill over the alleged killings of Jeeva and Kugan, senior cadres of LTTE ally the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS). The rebels say the two were tortured and killed last Tuesday by commandos of the police's paramilitary special task force near the Poonagari Army Camp in the northwestern district of Mannar.

The government has not confirmed the killings, and official sources in Colombo said Sunday the Indian peacekeeping force sent to Sri Lanka to oversee a peace-pact ceasefire had investigated the allegations and found them to be untrue.

Separate protests were held in Trincomalee Saturday over the alleged killing of a boy by a Sri Lankan home guard Thursday night, witnesses said. The home guard allegedly shot dead the boy and wounded other people at Trincomalee during celebrations to mark the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord signed on July 29 and approved by the Tamil separatists. Officials have not confirmed the death.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Batticaloa Citizen's Committee told *Agence France-Presse* by telephone that about 20 decomposed bodies had been found Saturday in a burnt-out Tamil village near Batticaloa. The spokesman could not say when the deaths had occurred at Vavunativu village, five kilometres (three miles) south of Batticaloa. No official confirmation on the bodies could be obtained immediately.

Meanwhile, an Indian High Commission spokesman said the surrender of arms by Tamil rebels under the peace pact was continuing in the northern Jaffna peninsula and Trincomalee and was scheduled to begin Sunday in Batticaloa. He said the schedule of the arms surrender was flexible.

The commander of the Indian forces in Sri Lanka, Major-General Harkirat Singh, recently told reporters that New Delhi wanted all weapons to be handed over by August 18, when parliament reconvenes here. The spokesman said Maj.-Gen. Singh was expressing "the reasonable expectations of the Indian peacekeeping force." "India and Sri Lanka will tackle the problem (of the surrender) with patience and tact," the spokesman added.

The rebels took part in a token surrender of arms to the Sri Lankan Government and Indian forces in the Jaffna peninsula Wednesday. But since then only a handful of arms have been handed over, Sri Lankan military sources said. About 20 weapons were surrendered in Trincomalee Saturday, the first arms laid down in that area, the sources said.

The pact signed by India and Sri Lanka, strongly opposed by some members of the Sinhalese majority in the island, proposes a single provincial council to be established in the Tamil-dominated north and the multi-racial east. The Tamil separatist campaign has left some 6,000 people dead since mid-1983.

LTTE Official Says 18 Aug Deadline 'Unrealistic'
BK111608 Hong Kong AFP in English
1554 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Madras, India, Aug 11 (AFP) — The August 18 deadline reportedly set by the head of the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka for the handover of Tamil separatist weapons is "unrealistic", a leader of the dominant militant group said here Tuesday.

Anton Balasingham, political adviser at the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) office in this southern city, said there were some "practical difficulties" in the way of a total arms surrender by August 18 that made the time limit "unrealistic". [passage omitted]

Mr Balasingham rejected Indian press reports that a senior LTTE leader had flown to India to seek a written guarantee on the welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The LTTE man is still in Sri Lanka, he said. But he added that the LTTE had sought New Delhi's permission to bring to Madras for medical treatment its Jaffna area commander Sathasivan Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, who lost a leg in a grenade attack in April.

Meanwhile, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) announced here that 13 of its members allegedly kidnapped by the LTTE in Sri Lanka Saturday were released Monday night after the intervention of the Indian Army. The

EPRLF suspended its weapons surrender after the reported abduction but has now resumed the handover, group spokesman L. Ketheeswaran said.

Jayawerdene Interviewed by LA REPUBBLICA

AU101029 Rome ANSA in English 1019 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, August 10 — Sri Lanka would like the Indian troops who are policing a truce between the Government in Colombo and the Tamil rebels in part of the island to leave "within a couple of weeks", according to Sri Lankan President, Junius Jayawardene.

Interviewed for the weekend edition of the Rome daily, *La Repubblica*, he said the troops may even be gone as soon as August 15, "if the separatists complete handing over their arms by then".

The agreement designed to end ethnic strife on the island was signed with Indian premier, Rajiv Gandhi, on July 29. "I accept India as a regional great power", said Jayawardene. "It's an undeniable fact and it has been recognised by the great powers on the world level, including the United States and Britain".

"My experience tells me the United States would not move a finger to help us without consulting India," he added, saying he had lost all faith in the great powers and that he had moved nearer India "because I believe in Rajiv, I like him, and I consider him a friend ... India should be the guardian of this region".

According to the Sri Lankan president, no solution to the problem of Tamil separatism was possible in the last four years because the separatists refused to seek a settlement.

"The only remaining choice was mediation between our government and the separatists", he said.

"The historic agreement was possible because, for the first time, India offered to take direct responsibility... believe me, no one will hold back and the agreement will be approved unanimously by the United National Party in parliament, probably by the end of September or early October".

Asked whether the plans to run for re-election to the presidency next year, Jaywardene said: "Our Constitution makes no allowance for a third mandate and I don't intend to change it for this purpose. Then, I'm 81 and I need a little rest".